

THE CRITIC:

Weekly Journal of Literature, Art, Science, and the Drama.

VOL. XIX.—No. 492.

DECEMBER 10, 1859.

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NATIONAL HOSPITAL for the PARALYZED and EPILEPTIC.—At a PUBLIC MEETING, held at the Egyptian Hall, Mansion-house, on Wednesday, the 2nd November, 1859.

The Right Hon. the LORD MAYOR in the chair. The following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

1. It was moved by the Right Hon. Viscount Raynham, M.P., seconded by Sir Charles Aldis: That this Meeting, having had its attention directed to the fact that among the many noble London charities no especial aid has been accorded to paralysis and epilepsy, considers the proposed Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic pre-eminently deserving of the support of the public at large, and pledges itself to promote its success.

2. On the motion of Mr. Alderman Hale, seconded by Anthony W. Clarke, Esq.: That a Committee be formed of the following noblemen and gentlemen (with power to add to their number), and that they be authorised to frame a set of rules for the proposed Hospital, and to submit the same to the subscribers:

The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor.
The Right Hon. the Viscount Raynham, M.P.
Benj. Bond Cabell, Esq., M.P.
William Russell, Esq., M.P.
Mr. Alderman Hale.
Captain Bowyer.
Anthony W. Clarke, Esq.
Wolryche Bridgeman, Esq.
Richard Carl Barton, Esq.
Thomas Parker, Esq.
Z. B. Laurence, Esq.
Edward Henry Chandler, Esq.

3. A vote of thanks having been unanimously accorded to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor for presiding over the Meeting, the following Donations and Subscriptions were announced:

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D. W. WIRE, Chairman.

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4. Mr. Acton on Illegitimacy in Marylebone, St. Pancras, and St. George's, Southwark.
5. Mr. Heywood.—Proceedings of the Social Science Association at Bradford in Oct. 1859.
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7. Proceedings of Section F. of the British Association at Aberdeen, in Sept. 1859.
8. Miscellaneous and Quarterly Returns.
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THE CRITIC.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

A STATEMENT HAS BEEN MADE by a contemporary, to the effect that the private meeting of the Royal Academicians, held this week, was for the purpose of enabling Mr. COPE to bring forward a scheme of reform for the consideration of the whole body. In the *Observer* of Sunday a paragraph, headed "communicated," also appeared, stating that the members of the Royal Academy were at length summoned to consider a proposal of Government as to what concessions that society is willing to make to the public and their brother artists, as some compensation for local accommodation on public property, preparatory to its removal to Burlington House. "It is understood," said the communicative correspondent of the *Observer*, "that, in order to secure a legalised right, which they do not nor ever did possess, the shrewdest and least grasping of the members mean to propose a small reform of the privileges of their monopoly, but that those who have grown old and rooted in their selfish claims, and those who from deficiency of talent dread the least approach to competition, even under most unequal conditions, will resist every symptom of liberality. Mr. COPE, Sir CHARLES EASTLAKE, and, of course, Professor COCKERELL, will be on the prudent side—that is, for concession to popular and parliamentary feeling. It is to be hoped that nothing will be decided by Government before Parliament is consulted; and we are promised a full and complete inquiry into the subject of the Fine Arts, which is certainly at the present moment of more national importance, and of more vital importance to artists themselves, than at any former period." That the meeting of the Royal Academicians was for the purpose of considering a proposition for some radical change in the constitution of their body we do not doubt; but we believe that the contemporary above alluded to was misinformed when it named Mr. COPE as the reformer, and that it was Mr. WESTMACOTT who really had a scheme to submit to his brethren. If Mr. COPE be a reformer, he is a very mild one, and prefers, we believe, to remain with the courtly President on what the correspondent of the *Observer* calls "the prudent side." Mr. WESTMACOTT, on the other hand, is known to be in favour of very important, and, no doubt, to Academicians of the old school, startling changes, in which he is likely to be backed up by a very strong body of reformers in the Academy itself. What the exact nature of these proposed changes may be we cannot reveal, for the very simple reason that we do not know anything for certain. The discussions preliminary to any change will necessarily, and we think rightly, be kept rigidly secret by the Academicians; and if they find their way to the public eye before the course to be taken is finally determined upon, it must be by the agency of a traitor in the camp. We think, however, that it is not at all unlikely that one of the changes proposed may be either the abolition of the Associate body or a considerable extension of it. One would indeed be almost equivalent to the other; for the practical effect would be to throw the R.A. seats open to a much larger body than at present. At any rate, we are not without cause for believing that some of the Academicians are in favour of one of these courses, and some in favour of the other. It seems to follow, however, that if the number of Associates be increased that of the Academicians must also be raised in proportion. This it is that will probably make the proposal to increase the number of Associates exceedingly unpopular to many of the Academicians. With regard to the discussion among the Academicians themselves, we have said that they are rightly kept secret. As long as the Academy is a private body (and it really is nothing more at present), the public has no concern with the private debates of its members as to their private affairs. Because it has hitherto occupied a public building rent free by the sufferance of the Government, that is no reason, in our opinion, why it should be subjected to an inquisitorial supervision of its private affairs on the part of the public. Many other societies are similarly favoured, and it is right for the cause of knowledge and art that they should be so; but no one assumes the right of prying into the private proceedings of their Councils. Why, then, should they of the Royal Academy? The *Athenæum* coolly recommends the reformers to send "a short abstract of what is said in favour and in disapproval of his resolution"—in other words, turn informers and break faith with their brethren—and is of opinion that, if they were to ask the editor to publish it as a favour, he will do so. We should rather think he would; but we should hope that there is no one within the walls of the Academy scoundrel enough to take the hint. "In these very pages," adds the *Athenæum*, "the members of the Royal Academy may read the sayings and doings of the Fellows of the Royal Society. Why should Art be managed in the dark?" This, however, is no simile at all. It is the public proceedings of the Royal Society, and those only, that are published; and these may bear some analogy to the exhibitions of the Royal Academy, but none at all to the private debates of the Academicians. When did the *Athenæum* ever publish a report of those private discussions which have taken place among the Council of the Royal Society before the carrying out of those numerous reforms to which that once very conservative body has submitted? Still, walls have ears, and the keyholes in Trafalgar-square are old-fashioned and large; so that we do not quite despair of seeing the "short abstract" yet.

IS SAUL ALSO AMONG THE PROPHETS? IS THOMAS CARLYLE, the denouncer of shams, the contemner of beadsles, the destroyer of wind-bags, among the wearers of gauds and gewgaws of rank? Else why this paragraph which all the papers are adopting, that he has been made a Knight of the Falcon by the GRAND DUKE of SAXE-WEIMAR, and has accepted it? To be sure, GOETHE, whom he so intensely admires, submitted to be patronised by a worse specimen of a Grand Duke than this present DUKE of SAXE-WEIMAR, and that may have had its influence with the great Diogenes of Chelsea. But then, not so many years have past since he refused the order of the *Roth-Adler* (Red Eagle) at the hands of the KING of PRUSSIA. If so, why accept from a Grand Duke what was rejected when offered by a King? Perhaps, however, there is something independent in this; and then the DUKES of SAXE-WEIMAR have, for the reason already intimated, a kind of inherited right to patronise men of letters. At any rate, assuming that the QUEEN is graciously pleased to permit Mr. CARLYLE to wear his riband, we shall watch with interest for his first appearance in public "with his orders thick upon him."

THE FRIENDS OF MR. D. MITCHELL, once Secretary of the Zoological Society, and more lately of the *Société d'Acclimatation*, will grieve to hear that the mystery which hangs around his sudden and untimely death deepens rather than becomes enlightened by disclosures which have recently been made. It appears that the extremely suspicious nature of his ending has attracted the notice of the Paris police, who are now actively engaged in investigating the matter with all that shrewdness and acumen which they are known to possess. There is no reason for believing that Mr. MITCHELL's mind was in anything but the soundest condition to the last; nor is there any foundation for the statement that any unusual embarrassment drove him to the act of self-destruction. As at present there is much more of conjecture than of proof in the matter, we shall merely say that, if the suspicions of those who are engaged in investigating the matter turn out to be well founded, it will be found that the pistol-shot which killed him was not fired by his own hand.

PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO ASK, not without a cause, what has become of Mr. HAMILTON's pamphlet *in re* the COLLIER folio. Full five months have elapsed since the accusation of literary forgery was first brought in the columns of the *Times* against some person or persons yet unascertained; and ever since that time all interested in the question have been eagerly on the watch for the pamphlet in which all the evidence is to be adduced and the case fully stated; yet it does not appear. As we have ourselves examined the *fac-similes* made by Mr. NETHERCLIFF to accompany the pamphlet, we have every reason to believe that it has been in a very advanced state of preparation for some time; and, as it is obviously the interest as well as the duty of Mr. HAMILTON to strengthen his case by a full statement of his testimony whilst the matter is still before the public, we cannot doubt that he has used all reasonable diligence to press the matter forward. What, then, can be the cause of delay? We are told that fresh discoveries have been made, and that the pamphlet is consequently swelling to the proportions of a book. Documents at Ellesmere House and at Dulwich College are now added to the much-disputed folio, and it is said that both Lord ELLESMERE and his librarian, Dr. KINGSLEY, have entered warmly into the inquiry side by side with Mr. HAMILTON. We hope, however, that the appearance of the evidence will not be much longer delayed. People are apt to be captious, and may say that it cannot be a very strong case that requires so long a time for its preparation.

WE thank a correspondent for the following note:—
O'CONNELL AND THE MUSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRITIC.

In your last number (p. 566) you give what is there called "an *impromptu* of Daniel O'Connell."

As nothing that is really good in literature can be supposed to

Escape the searching ken of Critic's eye,

I am bound to assume that you are aware that the great Irish orator was only entitled to the merit of adaptation, and that the "*impromptu*" is, in fact, merely a parody of the following, which was written long before he was born—

Three poets, in three distant ages born,
Greece, Italy, and England, did adorn.
The first in loftiness of thought surpasses;
The next in majesty—in both the last.
The force of Nature could no further go;
To make a third, she joined the former two.

Doubtless you know this, and where the original is to be found; but, as some of your readers may not, it is but fair that you should inform them, or be the means of enlightening them on the subject, lest they ascribe merit to the wrong pen, and give the master-genius of Ireland credit for that which in truth he merely borrowed from a Saxon. J. K.

SCARCELY a literary feat, and yet an affair of letters, that foolish escapade of the four Liverpool merchants, who seem foolishly to go down to posterity linked in brotherly unity with the three Tailors of Tooley-street. That Messrs. MELLOR, GASKELL, and Co. should presume to arrogate to themselves the functions of a Secretary of State is a piece of impertinence which folly or intoxication can only account for. For this, however, they have been visited with the contempt of their fellow-citizens, and may possibly sustain still more practical pains and penalties at

the hands of her Majesty's Attorney-General. So far as the personal question is concerned, they may perhaps be left to the consequences of their act; and so far as the national question is concerned, the tone of quiet irony in which the impertinence was replied to is sufficient proof that the French Government appreciates the act at its true value. The very name, *MOCQUARD*, selected from all the clerks in the Emperor's Cabinet, is of itself suggestive, and the horns of the dilemma upon which these unfortunate

brokers are lodged are sharp enough to have done credit to the great *TALLEYRAND* himself. "Either you believe in the *EMPEROR*, or you do not. If you do, why do you not believe in his protestations of peaceful intentions towards England? If you do not believe him, why ask him to avow his intentions to you? Do you expect that he will be more truthful to you, brokers of Liverpool, than he has been to your Government? Bah! Either it is *une sottise* or *une crainte*. Yours respectfully, *MOCQUARD*."

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

BURNS.

Genius and Morality of Robert Burns. By *PETER HATELY WADDELL*.
Ayr: Alexander Grant.

IT IS FITTING that the most enthusiastic eulogists of Burns should be Scotchmen; and two greatly-gifted countrymen of Burns, Thomas Carlyle and John Wilson, have uttered in his praise the best and noblest which can be uttered. In genius and in character Carlyle is as unlike Burns as possible. Wilson, on the contrary, had much in common with Burns, though he wanted the same intensity of passion. The essay on Burns by Carlyle is exceedingly finished as a literary feat; but the throb and the temptation of those consuming fervours which brought Burns to an early grave Carlyle never knew; therefore the critic judging prevails over the brother pitying. In the essay by Wilson it is the brother pitying that predominates; the brother with blood less fiery, with sorrows less tragical, with sins less flagrant, but with kindred consciousness of opulent love and overwhelming frailty.

Next to Wilson and Carlyle, no one has discoursed so eloquently on Burns as Mr. Waddell. The present little volume contains, besides a lecture which Mr. Waddell has frequently repeated, the speeches delivered by him as chairman of the Burns' Cottage Festival, 25th January, 1859, that is, a centenary celebration of the poet's birth on the spot where he was born. The qualities which distinguish all Mr. Waddell's writings are inflexible honesty of purpose, impetuous ardour, a rapid, gorgeous rhetorical march, a plenitude of pictorial illustration, the shrewdness rather than the subtlety of criticism, and a catholic geniality rare enough in Scotland, though not rare in Scotchmen when they escape from the immediate grasp of the Scottish Inquisition. The Scotch are at this hour in the saddest spiritual condition, from the absence of that courage to breathe their thoughts which once distinguished them, and which had its last grand consecration in the death on wild heath or in lonely glen of the Covenanters. The Free Church disruption and similar movements have not reached the deeper life of the Scottish people. They have been noisy heavings to and fro on the surface, not stupendous upheavals. Yet Scotland cannot remain for ever as now—a realm divided between Pharisees and Sadducees. Prophetic voices, worthy of those which ran flaming and transforming through the country in the time of Knox, must at last be heard. And we regard Mr. Waddell's fulminating words as the heralds of many more. A prophet in the truest sense of the word Mr. Waddell eminently is—a fearless forth-teller of divinest convictions. It is something of a prophet's power that he beholds in Burns. In effect, the highest lyrical gifts are closely akin to prophetic inspiration. That Burns performed the part of a prophet in the last century few can doubt after reading Mr. Waddell's lecture.

Burns was far more a moralist than Johnson and others whose works were produced with a professedly moral intention. As the scourge of hypocrites, as the vindicator of manhood, he roused Scotland from its religious apathy, and made it ashamed of its ignobleness. Burns, by the ignorant or malignant, is often classed with ribald and obscene authors. But the occasional coarseness of Burns was never designed to corrupt. It was either the overflow of an immense vitality or the readiest weapon which offered in the warfare with iniquity and abomination. The cant evermore of the modern representatives of the Mawworms whom Burns stung and lashed is that he and his career were one putrid mass of pollution. Mr. Waddell scarcely deigns to smite this cant in passing. Where so many have ventured only on timid apologies he is satisfied with nothing less than worship. This rapture of the adorer would be misplaced except toward one so magnificently, invincibly in earnest as Burns. The majority of writers we can safely judge by an exclusively literary standard. We must estimate the artist, where the artist absorbs and effaces the man, mainly by the rules of art. In the contrary case alone is an admiration running into rhapsody permitted. The contents of this book are entirely of a rhapsodical character; and properly so. Marvellous as was the genius of Burns, it was but the flash of his individuality as it rushed irresistibly on. He who renews the being of a people is honoured by the eternal gratitude of that people. We have no means of weighing or of measuring him.

As concerns Burns, Mr. Waddell is the ecstatic leader in the ecstatic chorus of a nation's applause. The waves of controversy roll and roar so far below, that he heeds them not. Unless we ascend to the mountain top where he kneels and sings, with

hosts of the brave around him, he will seem an insane idolator. Mr. Waddell's enthusiasm, however, in an age of indifference, an age which accepts nothing but what is positive and practical, leads him too often to an excess of emphasis. Where all is emphatic, emphasis in reality ceases. What was meant to strike, after a while only stuns, and at last simply deafens. The defect of Mr. Waddell's style is the absence of variety and repose. He is too uniformly vigorous. There is a sublimity in the thunder of a steam hammer, and we have often stopped to listen to the giant strokes for a few minutes. But a steam-hammer music for hours or for days would be rather too much. Not that Mr. Waddell is bombastic. He never hides a scanty meaning under big, blatant bow-wow phrases. But he has not yet conquered the secret of making the still small voice more potent than the crash of the hurricane. He might learn a lesson from the mighty masters of melody. How in the foremost works of Haydn and the rest the solitary murmur climbing to heaven alternates with grandest choral effects! The sound made by the fall of a feather from an Archangel's wing converts the sweep of the whole battalion of Archangels athwart the sky into a Hallelujah to which the infinite depths respond. Our counsel to Mr. Waddell is to husband his strength, and thus to be the stronger. Let the beautiful flowers and the odorous herbs grow beside the majestic trees: let the trees drink large draughts from the bountiful clouds; but let the flowers and the herbs be enriched with their tiny dower of dew, and not be drowned in a deluge of rain. If you have the gold of thought, you do not need to shoot it like a cannon-ball at men in order to assure them that it is gold. Mr. Waddell has probably been led into exaggeration and an intensity too unrelieved by the evil example of Carlyle—an example which has been fatal to Kingsley, to Froude, to Masson, to Ruskin, and to the present race of English writers generally. Plain, simple, direct, and manly speech has gone out of fashion. Your choice lies between fustian and slang, between Polyphemus howling in his cave and an ape chattering at its entrance. Now Mr. Waddell is a speaker at once so genuine and so gifted, that sad it were if he could not stoop to that unadorned discourse which often quicker and sooner than the clangor of gorgeous periods finds its way to the soul. Mr. Waddell sometimes reaches the heart through the imagination—never the imagination through the heart; yet this is the more lasting victory. His mind is athletic. It does not pile up idea on idea; it does not squander offerings from a vast store of rainbowed phantasies; it has received a gladiatorial discipline, and it has to do its work by gladiatorial effort. Well, then, let the weapon of the gladiator be free, and let his limbs be disencumbered.

Mr. Waddell would probably have few equals as an orator and an author, if he were familiar with the English writers who lived before Addisonian effeminacy and Johnsonian platitude had debased the noblest language of the modern world. Shakespeare and the Bible will ever remain the true models of English style. But, furthermore, we must live with the contemporaries and the immediate successors of Shakespeare, as with wide and affectionate friends, if to our countrymen we are to have the eloquent lips alike of a royal elevation and a child-like innocence. The degradation of a tongue is the degradation of those using it: its solid majesty theirs also. They, therefore, are not pedantic purists who would have the English language spoken and written as at its most colossal epochs, when Drake and his brotherhood of sea-kings were hurling the haughty and cruel Spaniard from the sovereignty of the main—spoken and written, however, without any of that silly and slavish imitation and affectation of which the plays of Sheridan Knowles are such preposterous specimens.

While urging on Mr. Waddell the study of England's loftiest and richest literature, in order that his pages may be more many-toned and many-coloured, we must nevertheless confess that the perfervid temperament of the Scotchman is hostile to versatility. Red-hot with zeal, grim with determination, the Scotchman seizes hold of a single fact and hammers it into his brain and bone; he and the fact are thenceforth one. Come not between him and his grim pertinacity: you may tease, and mock, and torture him with impunity; but woe unto you if you meddle with his settled conviction, with his unbending will. There is a fanaticism in every Scotchman for something or another; and it may be the more violent and imperious the less he reveals it. Such a nature it is obvious must influence far more than it is influenced. It cleaves, it penetrates, it indomitably persists: it may be overwhelmed, but it cannot be turned aside. Hence the Scotch mind has powerfully influenced the English mind. The English mind, however, has by no means influenced the Scotch mind in the same degree. Shakespeare is little more than a name in Scotland, and

Bacon is scarcely even a name. If Milton and Cowper are read, it is not from poetical admiration, but from theological sympathy.

It is absurd to seek the reason of these things either in provincial prejudice or national antipathy; the real reason must be sought in a radical difference of character and culture. While the Scotchman is ruled by one supreme motive, the Englishman is ruled by many motives. Scotch education is the better discipline; English the more nourishing food. The Scotch scholar seldom grows into the mere student; the English scholar is seldom anything but a student. The Scotchman loves the simple; the Englishman delights in the complicated. Thought with the Scotchman is polemical; with the Englishman reflective, contemplative, often melancholy. The Scotchman has the more living imagination; the Englishman the more fertile conception. A clumsy imitator, and destitute of the dramatic faculty, the Scotchman is a contemptible blunderer either when imitating or when trying to be dramatic. Scotland has produced no great actors, no great dramatic poets, scarcely an actor or a dramatic poet at all. A Scotchman does not understand banter, and he is the most awkward of animals when attempting to be playfully witty. Lord pity the poor Scotchman who thinks *Punch* clever, and resolves to be as clever as *Punch*. But exceedingly erroneous and shallow is the conclusion that, because the Scotchman cannot rival Douglas Jerrold or dexterously steal from Joe Miller, he is therefore destitute of wit and humour. The most Homeric of laughs is the Scottish *guffaw*; the wildest rush of humour is Scottish humour, once the gates of reserve are broken; and no sarcasm likelier than the Scotchman's when Scottish anger is fully kindled. Mr. Waddell has some admirable remarks on this subject, which ought to put the blockheads to silence who are always quoting Sydney Smith's paltry saying, that you would need to perform a surgical operation on a Scotchman to make him see a joke. Possibly, if the joke was very bad, he would not even see it after a surgical operation. The popular book of Dean Ramsay proves that the Scotch can be as witty and humorous as their neighbours; and the famous collection of Scottish jests and stories, "The Laird of Logan," leaves the best of the Joe Miller brood very far behind. Whose humour so overflowing and joyous, whose wit so terrible to wither and to slay, as the humour and the wit of Burns? Would any of the drivellers who deem it safer to insult a whole nation than one of that nation's valiant and chivalrous sons, like to provoke the formidable energy of ridicule with which the lips and the pen of Thomas Carlyle are armed? But let the Scotchman remain the Scotchman, intentionally offending none by his individuality, yet never cravenly veiling it; and let him not be grieved that he cannot be a good contributor to *Punch*. His individuality, however, would lose nothing by commune with that portion of English literature which Englishmen themselves ungratefully forsake.

It is our fervent hope that Mr. Waddell will ultimately be as well known in England as in Scotland. That he may be the sooner and the better known, let him soften away some Scottish angularities by converse with the Elizabethan demigods. The granite will still remain the granite, though polished. It were a worthy work if Mr. Waddell, after uttering to English ears rarer and loftier things about Burns and Scott than they are in the habit of hearing, would go back as a revealer of Elizabethan glories to his countrymen. Could he not speak as eloquently at Glasgow or Edinburgh about Raleigh, as in this book he speaks about Burns? Probably, from the increasing number of Scottish students at the English universities, and from the progress of episcopacy in Scotland, a great change may be preparing for the North; and Mr. Waddell may be the representative of a class of writers about to pass away. It may be that the outpourings of a prophetic soul may never find eager audience in England. Mr. Waddell will still remain the most brilliant and suggestive of lecturers, even to those to whom, as the advocate of reform, he is not welcome.

ATTICUS.

MR. HORNE IN AUSTRALIA.

Australian Facts and Prospects: to which is prefixed the Author's Australian Autobiography. By R. H. HORNE. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. pp. 258.

WHEN MR. HORNE, the author of "Orion," left England more than seven years ago, for the Australian colonies, there was some speculation among his friends as to whether the bent of his mind was sufficiently practical to cope with the difficulties of colonial life. To all who entertained any such apprehensions this pleasant little volume will afford an agreeable surprise. Not only was Mr. Horne as able to cast off the slough of over-civilisation and adapt himself to the necessities of circumstance as the hardest miner that emigrated with him, but he really appears to have "come out" very well upon the occasion—to have won his way to the first rank by all that energy, adroitness, and perseverance which are such necessary elements of colonial success. He went out a poet, author of "Orion," "The Dreamer and the Worker," &c.; he has been, in turn, Commander of the Gold Escort in Victoria, in 1852; Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Gold Fields, in 1853-54; Territorial Magistrate, in 1855; and at this time Commissioner of the Yan Yean Water Supply. And this by no favour or affection; simply by hard work and good conduct.

When Mr. Horne first conceived the idea of going to Australia he

thought it would be a good plan to take out with him a band of trained English miners. He had been for many years connected with some copper mines in England, and he thought it likely that if he took out some of the men from these mines they would be attached to him by an adherence "founded very much on the spirit of clanship." Happily, however, when he mentioned this idea to his friend, Mr. Charles Dickens, that keen observer of human nature immediately dissuaded him from it. "Don't think of it. All the clanship will evaporate at the sight of gold; and the miners will abandon you, to a man." This was shrewd counsel, and Mr. Horne did well to take it. He took out, nevertheless, a well-appointed miner's outfit—tools, cart, portable forge complete. No sooner, however, had he landed, than he found it expedient to sell all these things, which he was fortunately able to do at a considerable profit—the portable forge excepted, which lay a dead weight upon his hands, and had after all to be sold at less than cost price. Gold-digging not seeming expedient to Mr. Horne, he lost no time in procuring employment in another direction:

At this stage of my transactions in steel and iron work, it came to my knowledge that the chairman of the directors of the Private Escort (at that time called, by a facetious flourish, "Dight's Light Horse") had made certain inquiries concerning me. Major Chisholm recommended me to look to this. He was aware that they had great difficulty in obtaining competent and reliable officers to command the troop, as it was very rough work, and the treasure in charge was costly. I immediately sought the auriferous chairman, and found him closeted with the leading director—the first a rich merchant, the second a rich gold-broker. My "examination for commander" was amusingly brief and characteristic of Victoria. The work was very rough; many knocked under by it. So I had heard. Was I a good horseman? As to that, I said, I had never yet been thrown; but having already seen the performance of one of their buck-jumpers, I supposed I must look forward to the usual pleasures. This answer "passed" me on the question that seemed most important. Was it true that I had been educated at the Royal Military College in England, and that I had seen actual service in South America? It was true. When would I be ready to take command of a troop? Directly I had lodged my luggage in the house of a friend, and placed a valuable piece of iron-work (my forge) in safe custody. I at once received the appointment. Not a word as to what method I should adopt for the protection of the treasure through the lonely bush-tracks by day or by night, and not a word about giving security. I heard afterwards that my promptitude had given great satisfaction, a rival candidate of considerable military experience having replied that he would be ready to start with his troop as soon as he could get his uniform made. The directors knew what time that might take, and everything at this period had to be done with a rush. So away I started for Forest Creek and Bendigo, with my troop; my "uniform" consisting of a cavalry sabre, pistols in belt and in holsters, long mud-boots, an old frock-coat, and a broad-brimmed slouched beaver, with a black cloth Templar cap for night work. The second officer and troop-sergeant were well dressed for bush cavalry. Between myself and the troopers there rattled along three small, very strong gold carts, with nothing in them excepting blankets, empty gold boxes, provisions, a carpet bag or two, and bags with oats for a few horse-feeds on emergency, all of which articles were flung into the carts pell-mell. Each little cart had four horses, and a Yankee driver with a long whip, long pistols, and a long bowie-knife in his belt. These drivers wore long beards, with wild, coarse hair struggling from beneath their wide-awakes and altogether presented an appearance grotesque and frightful enough, though it may only look melodramatic and absurd on paper. We started at a canter that made the Melbourne mud fly on all sides, and the pace became a gallop without my command, the leading files being out of hearing before the last gold cart had started; and through mud, and slush, and stones, and swamps, the gallop continued, out of Melbourne, through Flemington, and across the Keilor plains.

Behold our poet, then, in the first stage of his Australian experience, commander of the gold escort; heading a band of rough-riding volunteers, not over well disciplined—indeed, if the truth must be spoken, somewhat inclined to mutiny when the progress of affairs did not exactly coincide with their inclination; jogging on through the Australian forests to the diggings, and back again with the carts laden with boxes full of little bags of gold dust. Some of the incidents which happened to Mr. Horne at this stage of his Australian experiences deserve to be quoted:

A miner, who had been too late for the escort, stopped me to entreat that I would take down some gold for him in my pocket. I assured him it would burst through, because at the pace we went nearly all pockets with any thing in them soon became rags. Would I take some notes, then? I extended my hand, saying "How much, and what is your name?" "Mickey O'Halloran, yer honour: 300*l*." I clapped spurs to my horse to overtake my troop; the amount was too large to be taken in so loose a way. Not long after another man rushed across my way—so suddenly that I nearly galloped over him—with a similar request. "If it's only a few pounds," said I. "It's only a bundle of about 500*l*," exclaimed he. "I cannot take the responsibility," said I hurriedly. "There's none," shouted he; "no receipt wanted." Away I shot after my troop, leaving him shouting after me—"Cram it into your pistol holsters! ram the bundle down your boots!" I mention this to show the great confidence that was placed by the miners in the Private Escort, no receipt being required, and even his name not given. If I had complied with his request, the notes would all have been rubbed to powder in an hour or two. At any rate, he preferred all risks to the chance of being robbed. I found the second officer had been so imprudently good-natured as to take a small bag for one of these too-late men, and it had already burst in his breast pocket, and the gold had become mixed with the white dust of a biscuit and the black dust of gunpowder which had escaped from its flask. He had lost the bit of dirty paper with the owner's name, but said it was "John, something," who would call for it in Melbourne. As a rule I never took anything in this way, excepting letters of lovers, husbands, sons, or other tokens of private affection. . . . Dead horses and bullocks, and sometimes their skeletons, enlivened our way through the Black Forest, but no event of importance occurred till we commenced the descent of a steep hill approaching Gisborne. The leading gold cart here took a sliding much too precipitous, and over broken ground. I instantly ordered the sergeant to gallop up and direct the driver to alter his course. But the crackwhip became insubordinately deaf, and I pushed forward. Before I came up with him, over went the cart; out he pitched headlong among the four floundering horses; the guard and his blunderbuss pitched over behind, followed by several of the gold boxes; and the cart rolled down the siding. It turned completely over three times, but the third time it turned half back again,

as if about to return to us. Probably it had received a jerk from a stone or stump; howbeit, the effect was so unexpected and grotesque, that everybody laughed loudly—with a single exception. The dismayed commander did not laugh; for one of the gold boxes had burst open, and a number of small wash-leather bags and other packets of gold bestrewed the sward. Slipping out of the saddle, I hurried to the scene of confusion. The second officer and myself picked up the scattered bags, replaced them in the box; and when it looked as full as possible, and we could see no more bags or packets on the grass, the broken box was nailed together. When the cart had been got again into position, and its loading replaced and jammed tight, I sent all forward with the troop-sergeant, while the second officer remained with me to search over the ground when all was clear. We looked and looked about, with our swords in every tuft of grass, until I thought it best that he should mount and join the troop; but I remained behind in a most anxious state of mind, lest some little bag with thirty or forty ounces might be insidiously secreting itself under a weed, to bring disaster upon my first appearance in the bush.

This business did not, however, last long. The troopers grew insubordinate, and Mr. Horne's recommendations for the improvement of the undertaking were disregarded. The fact was, that the directors were too much concerned in getting the money for the work, to heed much how it was done. Mr. Horne resigned in disgust, and his next appearance on the stage of colonial life was as a Land Commissioner at the "diggins." This post, also, was not without its troubles. At the Warranga diggings there was a serious *émeute* about the licence fees; and it is probable that the lives of the commissioners and their officers were only saved by the temper and coolness which they displayed upon the occasion. We regret that Mr. Horne's account of his own career does not carry us further than his tenure of this office: the departure of the mail, however, compelled him to make short work of his personal reminiscences, and the pleasure of hearing how he has prospered up to the present time is deferred until some future opportunity.

In the main body of the work, which the author calls "Australian Facts and Prospects," a great deal of sensible advice will be found, likely to benefit those who may be deceived by the delusive statements of those who have painted colonial life *coulour de rose*. Mr. Horne's opinions are founded upon actual experience, and are entitled to respect. He represents matters, we thoroughly believe, in their proper light, and shows that, while there is ample scope in this new land for the employment of industry and capital, it is a worse place for unsettled talents and unemployed accomplishments than even this overstocked country. With the misrepresentations of Mr. Fowler in his "Southern Lights and Shadows" Mr. Horne is especially irate, and devotes a large portion of his book to the exposure of the fallacies put forward by that gentleman, whose work he characterises as "an off-hand, rollicking, and not-at-all-particular traveller's book, from the pen of one of the bright-eyed brigade of literary sharpshooters." Mr. Horne is very earnest in recommending literary men not to be misled by Mr. Fowler's statements about large sums earned upon the Australian press. That large sums have been and are earned by a few writers on the press may be true enough; but such instances are very rare, and have only been achieved by men who have spent some time in studying and mastering the politics of the colony, and whose success as writers has therefore been rather political than literary in its character. For the rest, great abilities combined with great energy will of course get on in Australia, as they will anywhere else; but the struggle is rather more than less arduous than in England. Of his own experience in money-making Mr. Horne says, frankly enough:

Perhaps it may be said to me, "And you, sir, you with the warning voice, have you not been tolerably successful? These successes seem, at any rate, to be getting rather numerous. You worked in the fields of English literature a good many years, and you landed in Australia without capital or a single friend, and you have done pretty well, have you not?" As questions to this effect may pass through the minds of readers, I will frankly answer them. Amidst the usual Australian struggles I have worked my way steadily, with some moderate successes, because I possess great energy, and have had a varied experience in foreign lands as well as at home. I have got into no difficulties, neither have I made any lucky "hits." I was here in a time when everybody engaged in speculations, and if I had been gifted with any talents of that kind, the opportunities were unprecedented; but I was very conscious of my want of knowledge and judgment in such transactions, and I was afraid to venture upon anything in which I could not pay if I lost. Those who are too scrupulous in this way are never enterprising, and they stand staring, and desiring, and demurring, while the right sort of men rush onwards, and either make a fortune or lose very little, perhaps nothing. Besides this, my heart was not in the work of money-making. Something else too frequently intruded its old familiar presence. I had gone too far with literature and art to forget their charms. Nevertheless, I have always managed to live by my own unaided exertions in a fair position, and I believe I shall some day be a rich man; and this last result will not be attributable to literature in Melbourne, but rather to horsemanship in the bush. The sketch of my career in Australia, before given, will explain all this sufficiently.

Upon the facts of Australian life and the prospects of success, this little volume gives a vast deal of useful information. Judging it as a literary performance, perhaps it may be said that if it had been more carefully written it would have been a better book. Haste is to be detected everywhere in its pages.

JUDGE BELL ON COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION.

Colonial Administration of Great Britain. By SYDNEY SMITH BELL, of Lincoln's-inn, Barrister-at-Law; one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope: London: Longmans, 1859.

THIS IS A LUCID, thoughtful, and careful volume, by a Colonial Judge, who is much and deservedly respected in his own sphere of labour, our rising settlement at the Cape, and who writes with a legal precision and judicial calmness which raise

his work far above the level of ordinary political speculations. It has not been composed for any temporary purposes or selfish object, and the conclusions arrived at and boldly avowed in it are of such a kind that we can well understand the author's fear expressed in his preface, that he has written with too great a freedom. But boldness, when combined with Judge Bell's candour and love of truth, is a very different thing from rashness. The colonial problem is not to be solved by the repetition of old formulas and phrases. The more of such frank books as this the better.

The volume, from the very nature of the subject, falls naturally into three divisions, although the author himself has not distinctly marked them. There is the constitutional and legal question, which deals with the natural, the acquired, and the actual rights of the mother country over the colonies. Then, again, there is the past history of the relations between the Government at home and the other Imperial dependencies. Last, and most important of all, comes the future of the colonies in their relations to the British Crown and Parliament. On the two former of these interesting subjects the reader will find abundance of well-reasoned argument and of excellently-digested matter in this not very extensive volume. It is on the last of them, however, the future of the colonies, that, with our restricted space, we shall chiefly dwell at present.

Judge Bell has come, after careful meditation, to the conclusion—and having formed it in such a way, he has the proper courage to avow it—that we at home ought to keep steadily in view the bestowal of independence on our colonies. This is a recommendation which was made long ago by Adam Smith, and which has been broached in our own day by politicians of different schools. But Judge Bell's recommendation is accompanied by suggestions and qualifications of a kind which give it a much greater weight (we do not, however, say what that weight is) than belongs to the vague declamations, once so rife, about letting the colonies take care of themselves, &c. &c. For the expressions "loss of our colonies" and "abandonment of our colonies," he would substitute "emancipation of" and "alliance with" our colonies. In bestowing independence on our colonies, Judge Bell would have us still connect ourselves with them by alliances, defensive or offensive, or both, according to circumstances. Why should it, he asks, be assumed as a general proposition, that discontinuance of our colonies as such must be accompanied by a refusal of all assistance for their defence when, from circumstances, the colony is unequal to undertaking that burden? And, he cites, with considerable apparent pertinency, the case of Portugal. What, he inquires, has enabled Portugal to maintain its existence as a separate state, but its alliance with Great Britain by offensive and defensive treaty? And what, he continues, is there in the nature of things to prevent the adjustment of such an alliance, upon fair, reasonable, and just terms, with such countries as now form part of our colonies, after they should have been made as independent of us as Portugal has ever been?

There is nothing, we rejoin. But would it be desirable, we may inquire in return, to have forty or fifty Portugals scattered over the face of the globe, whose domestic and foreign policy we could not in the slightest degree control, and yet on whose behalf we should be obliged to fly to arms when they demanded our protection. No doubt, as Judge Bell remarks, our colonies in time of war are at present a source of weakness to us. They supply us with neither men nor money, and they require the costly and difficult protection of our fleets and armies. Yet, at the worst, they do not plunge us into war, as they might do under Judge Bell's system. At present we may lead them into war; they cannot lead us. Surely, a terrible risk would be run if at forty or fifty different points of the earth's surface there were as many independent states, free to quarrel with the most powerful nations, in full reliance on the strength of England to protect them when the worst came to the worst.

Judge Bell is too sensible and experienced a man not to see, as Adam Smith saw before him, that it must be a long time before colonial independence can be voluntarily agreed to by this country. Accordingly, in dealing with the future, he takes into consideration the probability of a retention of the present connection between the mother country and her colonies, and contributes some very striking suggestions towards making that connection as just and beneficial as possible. One of these is of a novel and original kind. In an admirable chapter, Judge Bell points out the evils that have arisen, are arising, and must arise, from the frequent changes at the Colonial Office, consequent on our system of parliamentary government. He, therefore, proposes that the Colonial Secretary should be a permanent official without a seat in the Cabinet, and not mixed up with party discussions, or dependant for his continuance in office on party triumphs at home. This appears to us the most important of Judge Bell's suggestions, and to be very well worthy of consideration. By the very nature of his functions and duties, the Colonial Secretary seems marked out for a severance from the ordinary struggles of domestic politics. But whether either of the two great parties in the State would consent to surrender, for the sake of benefiting the colonies, so great an official prize as the seals of the Colonial Department and its patronage, is, we must confess, extremely doubtful.

In conclusion, we may remark it as strange that Judge Bell's calm and thoughtful appeal should have proceeded from an official personage ordinarily located at the Cape of Good Hope. The Cape is one of those colonies which appears to derive the most direct benefit from its subordination to, and dependence on, the mother-country. The Cape requires military protection, and she receives it, as the blood and

treasure spent by us in Caffre wars abundantly testify. The Cape is the only colony, moreover, on behalf of which the mother country keeps up, as regards one commodity at least, the elsewhere-exploded system of differential duties. Cape wines are admitted into this country at a lower duty than is levied on those of other countries. Nor do the Cape colonists, although they have a parliament of their own, disdain to make use of the officialism of this country, and seem to be very anxious to avoid all contact with the Circumlocution Office. It was but recently that they resolved to withdraw from England their own paid emigration agent, and to entrust his work to the members of our much-abused Emigration Commission. The greater, therefore, the interest which attaches to such a phenomenon as Judge Bell's appeal for colonial independence. If these things are done in the green tree, what must be done in the dry? If a calm and reflective judge in a colony which derives such advantages as have been pointed out from dependence on England—if he says and writes these things, what thoughts must be fermenting in the minds of politicians in the Canadas and Australia? This is a view of the matter which lends an additional and extrinsic to the great intrinsic value of Judge Bell's remarkable work.

THE BIGLOW PAPERS.

The Biglow Papers. By JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL. Newly edited, with a Preface, by the Author of "Tom Brown's School Days." London: Trübner and Co. pp. 140.

ALTHOUGH THE INTEREST of "The Biglow Papers" is to a great extent local, and although a very considerable knowledge of not only American idiom but American politics is needed before they can be thoroughly enjoyed, they have already attained a popularity in this country which proves that they are characterised by a quality of humour which makes itself apparent in spite of these serious drawbacks. As the author of "Tom Brown's School Days" remarks in the preface, the impossibility of keeping a copy of "The Biglow Papers" is a very good proof of the popularity which they have acquired in England, and it needs but a very short acquaintance with their contents to understand how this has come about. These papers (which originally made their appearance in the public journals of the United States) were directed by their author against various public abuses, of which the mania for soldiering and the support of slavery were the chiefest. Selecting, as other great reformers have done before him, humour as his chosen weapon from the whole armoury of thought, he directed against the objects of his attack a battery of truths which has, probably, had more effect upon public opinion in the United States than a hundred times their bulk of pedantic sermons.

As to the peculiar use to which Mr. Lowell has put his humour some controversy has arisen. A contemporary has gravely taken him to task for the employment which he has made of serious topics, considering that there is a kind of blasphemy in such verses as the following:

Ez fer war, I call it murder—
There you hev it plain an' flat;
I don't want to go no furdur
Than my Testament fer that;
God has sed so plump an' fairly,
It's ez long ez it is broad,
An' you've to git up airly
Ef you want to take in God.

'Taint your eppylets an' feathers
Make the thing a grain more right;
'Taint afoollerin' your bell-wethers
Will excuse ye in His sight;
Ef you take a sword an' dror it,
An' go stick a feller thru,
Guv'ment aint to answer for it,
God 'll send the bill to you.

Some objection has been taken as to the familiarity with which the name of the Deity and other sacred subjects are used here and elsewhere in the "Biglow Papers," and Mr. Hughes, in his preface, attempts to excuse it upon the ground that "a subdued humour" finds a place even in the Scriptures themselves. We must confess that we do not think the example which he adduces (the account given in the Acts of the Apostles of the riot excited at Ephesus by Demetrius the silversmith, and his friends) particularly happy; for, with the exception of the statement that the mob, most of whom knew not why they had got together, remained for two hours in the theatre crying "Great is Diana of the Ephesians," we fail to perceive anything that at all approaches comedy in the whole business. In our opinion, the best excuse for this familiar mode of dealing with sacred topics is to be explained, if not excused rather, upon the ground that it is natural to the class of people whose sentiments and opinions Mr. Lowell, in the guise of Hosea Biglow, may be supposed to represent.

To point out all the admirable touches of human nature in these papers it would be almost necessary to quote them entire. Our favourite is certainly Hosea's address to the recruiting-sergeant, of which we have already given a specimen. Here again are two verses, the latter of which we beg to recommend to those writers in the public press who have lately adopted such a martial tone:

Just go home an' ask our Nancy
Whether I'd be sech a goose
Ez to jine ye—guess you'd fancy
The eternal bung wuz loose!
She wants me for home consumption,
Let alone the hay's to mow—
Ef you're arter folks o' gumption,
You've a darned long row to hoe.

Take them editors that's crowin'
Like a cockerel three months old—
Don't ketch any on 'em goin',
Though they be so blasted bold;
Aint they a prime set o' fellers?
'Fore they think on't they will sprout
(Like a peach that's got the yellars),
With the meanness bustin' out.

In the opinion of Parson Wilbur (whose notes upon Hosea's compositions are not the least racy part of the volume) "the first recruiting sergeant on record was that individual who is mentioned in the Book of Job as "going to and fro on the earth and walking up and down in it."

Mr. Biglow's opinion of fighting as a mere speculation is not very exalted:

Ninepence a day fer killin' folks comes kind o' low fer murder.

But Mr. Sawin's statement of his experiences of volunteering and his opinion of the value of glory is pacific enough in its tendency to find favour with the editor of the *Morning Star*:

I've lost one eye, but thet's a loss its easy to supply
Out o' the glory thet I've gut, fer thet is all my eye;
An' one is big enough, I guess, by diligently usin' it,
To see all I shall ever git by way o' pay for losin' it;
Off'cers, I notice, who git paid for all our thumps and kickins,
Du wall by keepin' single eyes arter the fattest pickins;
So, ez the eye's put fairly out, I'll larn to go without it.

But then, thinks I, at any rate there's glory to be had—
Thet's an investment, arter all, thet may n't turn out so bad;
But somehow, wen we'd fit an' licked, I oillers found the thanks
Gut kin' o' lodged afore they come ez low down ez the ranks;
The Gin' rals gut the biggest sheer, the Cummes next, an' so on—
We never gut a blasted mite o' glory ez I know on.

For humbug in all its phases Mr. Lowell has a rooted detestation; but against those free lances of literature who always square their opinions with their interests, and blow hot or cold merely as they are paid to do it, his anger and contempt seem unbounded. "The Pious Editor's Creed" is, of its kind, one of the most scathing pieces of satire that ever was penned against a class from which we must sorrowfully confess our own country is not free.

I du believe the people want
A tax on teas an' coffees,
That nothin' aint extravagunt,—
Purvidin' I'm in office;
Fer I hev loved my country sence
My eye-teeth filled their sockets,
An' Uncle Sam I reverence,
Partic'larly his pockets.

Palsied the arm that forges yokes
At my fat contracts squintin',
An' withered be the nose that pokes
Inter the gov'ment printin'!

I du believe in special ways
O' prayin' an' convartin';
The bread comes back in many days,
An' buttered, tu, fer sartin';—
I mean in preyin' till one busts
On wut the party chooses,
An' in convartin' public trusts
To very privit uses.

I du believe in bein' this
Or thet, ez it may happen
One way or t'other hendiest is
To ketch the people nappin',
It aint by principl'es nor men
My preudant course is steadiad,—
I scent which pays the best, an' then
Go into it baldheaded.

I du believe with all my soul
In the gret Press's freedom,
To pint the people to the goal
An' in the traces lead 'em;

In short, I firmly du believe
In Humbug generally,
Fer it's a thing thet I perceive
To hev a solid vally;
This heth my faithful shepherd ben,
In pasturs sweet heth led me,
An' this 'll keep the people green
To feed ez they hev fed me.

By this time, the reader who now makes his first acquaintance with "The Biglow Papers" will begin to understand the secret of their great popularity in America—a popularity which can only, perhaps, be compared to some of those politico-satirical writings of Swift, wherewith the great Dean used occasionally to mould the Irish people to his will. If the "Draper's Letters" stopped the circulation of Wood's halfpence, the lucubrations of the Jaalam sage have done much to stop the career of the recruiting sergeant in America. Perhaps not the least amusing part of the volume is a collection of mock reviews, intended by Mr. Lowell for a covert satire upon the reception of his views by the press; and of these we cannot forbear quoting one as the best parody of Carlylese we have ever met with:

FROM THE WORLD-HARMONIC-ÆOLIAN-ATTACHMENT.

Speech is silver: silence is golden. No utterance more Orphic than this. While, therefore, as highest author, we reverence him whose works continue heroically unwritten, we have also our hopeful word for those who with pen (from wing of goose loud-cackling, or seraph God-commissioned) record the thing that is revealed. . . . Under mask of quaintest irony, we detect here the deep, storm-tost (nigh shipwrecked) soul, thunder-scared, semiculate, but ever climbing hopefully toward the peaceful summits of an Infinite Sorrow. . . . Yes, thou poor, forlorn Hosea, with Hebrew fire-flaming soul in thee, for thee also this life of ours has not been without its aspect of heavenliest pity and laughing mirth. Conceivable enough! Through coarse Thersites-cloak, we have revelation of the heart, wild-glowing, world-clasping, that is in him. Bravely he grapples with the life-problem as it presents itself to him, uncombed, shaggy, careless of the "nicer proprieties," inexpert of "elegant diction," yet with voices audible enough to whose hath ears, up there on the gravelly side-hills, or down on the splashy, Indiarubber-like salt-marshes of native Jaalam. To this soul also the *Necessity of Creating* somewhat has unveiled its awful front. If not Edipuses and Electras and Alcestises, then in God's name Birdofredum Sawins! These also shall get born into the world, and fitch (if so need) a Zingali subsistence therein, these lank, omnivorous Yankees of his. He shall paint the seen, since the unseen will not sit to him. Yet in him also are Nibelungen-lays, and Iliads, and Ulysses-wanderings, and Divine Comedies—if only once he could come at them! Therein lies much, nay all; for what truly is this which we name *all*, but that which we do not possess? . . . Glimpses also are given us of an old father Zekiel, not without paternal pride, as is the wont of such. A brown, parchment-hided old man of the geponic or bucolic species, gray-eyed, we fancy, *queued* perhaps, with much weather-cunning and plentiful September-gale memories, bidding fair in good time to become the oldest inhabitant. After such hasty apparition, he vanishes and is seen no more. . . . Of "Rev. Homer Wilbur, A.M., Pastor of the First Church in Jaalam," we have small care to speak here. Spare touch in him of his Melesigenes namesake, save, haply, the—blindness! A tolerably caliginose, nephelegeretous elderly gentleman, with infinite faculty of sermonising, muscularised by long practice, and excellent digestive apparatus, and, for the rest, well meaning enough, and with small private illuminations (somewhat tallowsy, it is to be feared) of his own. To him, there, "Pastor of the First Church in Jaalam," our Hosea presents himself as a quiet inexplicable Sphinx-riddle. A rich poverty of Latin and Greek—so far is clear enough, even to eyes peering myopic through horn-lensed optical spectacles—but naught farther? O purblind, well-meaning, altogether fuscous Melesigenes-Wilbur, there are things in him incommunicable by stroke of birch! Did it ever enter that old bewildered head of thine that there was the *Possibility of the Infinite* in him? To thee, quite wingless (and even featherless) biped, has not so much even as a dream of wings ever come? "Talented young parishioner!" Among the arts whereof thou art *Magister*, does that of *seeing*

happen to be one? Unhappy *Artium Magister*! Somehow a Nemean lion, fulvous, torrid-eyed, dry-nursed in broad-howling sand-wildernesses of a sufficiently rare spirit-Libya (it may be supposed) has got whelped among the sheep. Already he stands wild-glaring, with feet clutching the ground as with oak-roots, gathering for a Remus-spring over the walls of thy little fold. In Heaven's name go not near him with that flybite crook of thine! In good time, thou painful preacher, thou wilt go to the appointed place of departed Artillery-Election Sermons, Right-Hands of Fellowship, and Results of Councils, gathered to thy spiritual fathers with much Latin of the Epitaphial sort; thou, too, shalt have thy reward; but on him the Eumenides have looked, not Xantippes of the pit, snake-tressed, finger-threatening, but radiantly calm as on antique gems; for him paws impatient the winged courser of the gods, champing unwelcome bit; him the starry deeps, the empyrean glooms, and far-flashing splendours await.

In conclusion, we think that the reading public is indebted to Mr. Trübner for transplanting "The Biglow Papers" into our literature in so agreeable a manner. Mr. Hughes's preface is very pleasant reading, as everything that comes from his pen must be; but as for the necessity of it, we should be inclined to apply the old proverb, that "Good wine needs no bush."

ANOTHER VOLUME ON THE INDIAN MUTINY.

District Duties during the Revolt in the North-West Provinces of India in 1857; with Remarks on Subsequent Investigations during 1858-59. By H. DUNDAS ROBERTSON, Bengal Civil Service. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1859. pp. 238.

MR. DUNDAS ROBERTSON informs his readers that the latter part of his book would have been much more completely worked out and enlarged, had he not found on arriving in this country such a thorough distaste for everything connected with India. This distaste we admit and lament, though we do not think it is to be wondered at. It has led Mr. Robertson to devote nine long chapters to the history of the rebellion in the North-Western Provinces of India, and three short ones to suggestions as to how other risings are to be prevented. Without at all hinting that the analogy between the sack and bread consumed by Falstaff is exactly applicable to these pages, we cannot help regretting that the author has so grievously curtailed his suggestions and admonitions as to the future government of India. That Mr. Robertson is a clear-headed, resolute man we opine from many incidents in the large portion of his volume which is taken up with the account of the revolt; but we have already seen a score of volumes the writers of which passed through or invented adventures far more stirring than any which our Bengal Civilian has witnessed, and who narrated these adventures much more graphically than Mr. Robertson does his in the present volume. Throughout its pages there are, however, occasional remarks introduced, which lead us to think that Mr. Robertson's opinions as to the future government of our great Indian dependency are often worthy of more careful notice than possibly they may meet with, now that the name of India is a very *bête noir* to the majority of readers. The following extract relates to a topic which probably will never be cleared up.

Perhaps the fickle tide of popular opinion has now turned sufficiently far to permit the murder of ladies and children, under circumstances hardly paralleled in history, to be considered atrocities in the worst sense, even though the whole of the facts attending those scenes may not yet have been disclosed to the public. Of the deliberate mutilation of Europeans I came across no instances in my investigations, nor, except in some cases where the parties are now living, have I heard of such; but instances of mutilation and torture in the case of natives I met with constantly, where it had been practised in consequence of loyalty, supposed or real, to the British. Probably the fact that Englishmen almost invariably died fighting was the chief reason why they escaped previous mutilation; still in the general confusion cases may have occurred of which all traces are obliterated, for "dead men tell no tales," and few Hindustanis are foolish enough to do so for them. As to dishonour, so far from its not taking place, my investigations firmly convinced me that it was as a general rule the case whenever the prisoners were not too emaciated by hardships to become objects of passion, as—it may be thought fortunately—was almost always the case with those of pure European extraction. The localities, indeed, were few in which European ladies fell into the hands of the rebels, and those who did so were in general eventually exterminated, though evidence in some cases exists of their treatment. But all over the country there are a few scattered Eurasian women who were permitted to live after dishonour; and their account, or that of their husbands, is almost invariably the same.

"Divide et impera" might have been adopted as the motto of this volume. If we wish to retain India, not only, according to Mr. Robertson, must nationalities, but also creeds and castes, be kept as distinct as possible. To the recommendation of the commissioners appointed to inquire into the organisation of the Indian army, "that the native army should be composed of different nationalities and castes, and as a general rule mixed promiscuously throughout each regiment," Mr. Robertson utterly objects. We, for our part, must be permitted to doubt whether, if the preservation of our Indian empire depend on the keeping distinct castes and nationalities, that empire can last very long. We do not pretend that there is the slightest probability of Hindoos, as a body, embracing Christianity; but yet we fancy that castes are doomed if England retain the dominion of India for another century. As to Christianity being adopted by Hindoos, they must first of all have Christians to imitate, and we opine that practice is considerably more persuasive than preaching, even with others than subtle Hindoos. But will not the progress of physical science necessarily banish caste? And will Mr. Robertson and those who think with him object to this progress, and place impediments in its way? Mr. Robertson's theory appears to be that India can only be retained by us by setting Hindoo against Mussulman, and the Brahmin against

the Mollah. He bids us remember that "Hindoos are, while not directly interfered with, singularly tolerant to all other creeds, and, if in power, will induce their co-religionists to submit to innovations which it would otherwise be extremely dangerous to introduce," and, at the same time, not forget "that nothing can temper the aggressive hate of Mahomedanism, though, with a fascinating and gentlemanly semblance of friendship, it may bide its time till it fancies the spring may be taken with certainty." We have, however, been previously told

The Hindustanis in fact now hate us, and will continue to do so to the end of the chapter, however pleased and contented they appear to be with our rule and its unmistakeable benefits, for never did any subject race but detest its conquerors. The Hindustani is simply wanting in steady energy, and not demonstrative; but a deep-rooted sluggish hatred exists, and it will always evince itself when opportunity offers. We can never again flatter ourselves that we are liked, or ever can be so, though at first we were doubtless looked upon in the light of deliverers, not of conquerors. Although kind and indulgent to the Hindustani, we must now always continue on our guard, however calm the surface.

We quite agree with Mr. Robertson as to the importance of employing native agency in official positions in India, and even in his assertion that the extension of official European agency is impolitic; but we can scarcely suppose that the natives will always be satisfied with subordinate posts in the military and civil service. The most careless student of history will scarcely recollect a parallel to the English regulation by which all natives, with the most trivial exceptions, are systematically excluded from high official posts. This was not the case in India under Mussulman rule, nor in China under the Tartar dynasty; nor does the Roman republic or empire at all bear out our system of government. India appears to be after all but a vast field for experiment. We who "live at home at ease" can scarcely suppose that Indians will, or indeed ought to, submit to this constant exclusion from all rule and authority in their own country; and the majority of Englishmen who have lived in India tell us that we have only to allow natives to hold high office, to ensure the speedy and certain overthrow of our Indian empire.

PHYSIOLOGY OF EDUCATION.

Physiology of Education: comprising a Compendious Cyclopadia of Mental, Moral, and Social Facts. By WM. M. WOOLER, Author of "Philosophy of Temperance," &c. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. pp. 504.

MR. WOOLER appears to have read the periodicals, whether daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly, to some purpose; at least, they have enabled him to compile a goodly volume of five hundred pages with very little trouble to himself. The scissors have been in requisition much more frequently than the pen in the putting together these pages; but we think the author has scarcely behaved fairly to his reviewers, if not to his readers, in dispensing with inverted commas all throughout this volume. Without knowing it, we may be carping at a bit of the *Times*, or lauding a paragraph from the *Record*; between the style of the latter of which periodicals and that of Mr. Wooler we fancy we can trace a marked resemblance.

It is so much the custom now a days for every man to pretend to despise all branches of knowledge with which he is unacquainted, that Mr. Wooler's diatribes against Latin and Greek at once led us to suspect that he knew very little about either of them. Our suspicion was converted into a certainty when we examined some of the Latin grammar quotations with which his book is garnished. They are nearly all inappropriate, or incorrectly printed; though certainly the latter might have been obviated in many cases by a decent attention to the pages of the Eton grammar. Mrs. Beecher Stowe, among other very doubtful dicta which she proclaimed to the public in her "Sunny Memories of Foreign Lands," was pleased to object that "Grave doctors of divinity expend their forces in commenting on and teaching things which would be utterly scouted were an author to publish them in English as original compositions. A Christian nation has commonly its young men educated in Ovid and Anacreon, but is shocked when one of them comes out in English with 'Don Juan,' yet, probably the latter poem is purer than either," &c. &c. "These sentiments," adds Mr. Wooler, "have our hearty concurrence." We do not know the exact meaning of "coming out in English with 'Don Juan';" but if it be quoting any passage in that poem which is free from indecency, we should imagine that "a Christian nation" is exceedingly thin-skinned. Mrs. Stowe is probably better acquainted with "Don Juan" than with Ovid and Anacreon, or else she would scarcely have coupled them together; and we would remind that lady that at least half the surviving literature of Greece and Rome—and, fortunately, the best half of it—is quite as pure as the majority of books now written. The pseudo-odes which have come down to posterity as the compositions of Anacreon are harmless enough; and three-fourths of Ovid might be read aloud in the most fastidious family circle. Mr. Wooler, having told us that Mrs. Stowe's sentiments meet with his hearty concurrence, starts off at a tangent to inform us that "domesticity is now in very high odour amongst the aristocracy." Another page from Mrs. Stowe's volume follows, in which we get the information that it is "a truly refreshing fact" that Lord Shaftesbury is so benevolent, and that the Archbishop of Canterbury is "simple, courteous, mild, and affable." What all this has to do with the enormities of "Don Juan" and Ovid it is not easy to say. Mr. Wooler next recollects that somebody has asked: "Do mathematics awaken the

judgment, the reasoning faculty, and the understanding to an all-sided activity?" "No," replies Mr. Wooler; "mathematics only cultivate the mind on a single phasis. A great genius cannot be a great mathematician." We know that Newton was a great mathematician, and we always believed, until Mr. Wooler affirmed the contrary, that he was a great genius. As Mr. Wooler assures us that mathematics and classics only cultivate the mind on a single phasis, we suppose that his mind has been cultivated on a series of phases, by which he is enabled to see a connection between Nurseries, Classics, Church Ceremonies, Bad Sermons, Church-rates, Happiness, Organization and Miss Nightingale, Miss Bronte and her writings, Thackeray, Mediocrity, Lavater, Nature, &c. We give the topics in the order in which they are to be found in the nineteenth chapter of the present volume; and heartily wish that Mr. Wooler had "contracted his sphere of observation," if not by "being a profound mathematician," at least by having learned the rudiments of logic. The most amusing part of the present volume is its manifold contradictions. Indeed, a writer who quotes from nearly every periodical that is now published, and generally to commend, can scarcely help contradicting himself. Had the present volume an index, it would perhaps make a useful commonplace book; but higher praise than this we cannot allow to the ill-digested matter which is to be found in its pages.

NEW NOVELS.

Narragansett; or, the Plantations. A Story of '77. 3 vols. pp. 969. Chapman and Hall.

Shadows and Sunshine; or, The Two Cousins. By MAURICE KEITH. London: Charles Westerton. pp. 366.

Seven Years, and other Tales. By JULIA KAVANAGH, Author of "Nathalie," &c. &c. 3 vols. London: Hurst and Blackett. 1860.

"NARRAGANSETT" is a curiosity of literature. If any of our readers find themselves in the vicinity of these three volumes, we can promise them a little irrational amusement from a dip into the first few chapters. But, unfortunately for us who, as critics, have had to read the book through, its insanity becomes dreadfully tiresome. A minute or two's conversation with a madman may be amusing before his malady is discovered, and while it seems mere eccentricity. But imagine being shut up alone in a railway carriage with a voluble lunatic all the way from London to Aberdeen, who had employed himself in reading up the hardest words in Johnson's Dictionary, and some idea may be formed of the sensations produced by the perusal of these three volumes.

There is no plot, no story, no hero, no heroine, in "Narragansett." The characters come upon the stage like the people in a pantomime, and walk off at the other side, to be seen or heard of no more. The author would seem to be an American, who perhaps has found on this side the Atlantic an escape from the Yankee equivalent of a commission *de lunatico inquirendo*. Otherwise, we are sure respectable publishers like Messrs. Chapman and Hall would, instead of printing his book for him, have inquired the name and address of his nearest relative, and communicated the fact that the author was at large.

Whatever drollery there is in the book lies in the pains which its unfortunate writer takes to show that he is a scholar. One can fancy that if he were to be visited in a New York Bedlam, he would say, "I, Sir, am Samuel Johnson." In the pages of this extraordinary performance, cheeks are "facial prominences;" a man suddenly appearing on a road is "a living projectile;" a "naturally beaming face" is dissolved in a "laxative smile;" a schoolmaster, while flogging three boys, gives "several synchronous raps for solecisms in manners;" a gentleman getting up the steam by a recourse to the brandy bottle is "inspired by frequent imbibitions;" one of the characters seats himself on "a patulous chair." Young gentlemen, given to bowing to the other sex, and fancying that they are lady-killers, have a "crooking vanity about the knee-pan," which is "aided by delusive heats under the frontal bone." An English pluralist has "four livings in uncounting counties;" the Lord's Prayer is "the Dominical prayer;" twenty minutes are "a double decade of minutes;" a pigtail is "a cervical outlier;" a man with not a shilling in his pocket has been for long "without a supererogatory ninepence to expend on cheerful consolations."

Instead of picking out any more gems, let us exhibit the author of "Narragansett" as he displays himself in a couple of passages, one descriptive, the other partly of dialogue. One of the thousand and one personages of the work, a Mr. Harvey Church, has a New England ferry to cross. Read and wonder!

In the early part of a raw unworthy day, with a humid east wind, Harvey found himself confronting the ferry that was to give him the means of crossing to the peninsula; a short traverse, but, in those days, sufficient to try the patience of the traveller. On the further side of the sluggish strait, with a thread of running water between meadows of shallows, then covered or deformed with weakly ice, he saw the low log-hut, with one little window, where lodged the guardian of the passage, himself partly the means of effecting it. The smoke rose merrily out of a short chimney, but there was no other life-like feature about the house. Church knew that it was necessary to make a signal to attract the attention of the ferryman; but, though the signal was necessary, it never seemed to be the cause of what, if happening, seemed referable simply to this person's own will. It was too far for the sound of a bell to reach, unless with a favouring wind, at any rate there was none provided; too far for the voice, or the Charon would have been too much liable to abuse, and, happily, beyond lapidation, else the humble tenement had perhaps long since been riddled or levelled by the natural artillery of impatient shore-standers. At present the wind was not favouring, and Church had no

resource, therefore, but to suppose an unseen observer, and to try to impress his wishes on this imaginary intelligence, by signalling derangements of his limbs; a task, the difficulty of which they can judge who have ever tried to express abstract ideas by the position of their principal bones.

Surely, this is "most exquisite fooling." Now for a specimen of dialogue and description blended. It must be premised that the interlocutors enjoying a *tête-à-tête* are two elderly individuals of either sex who had loved each other when young. Mr. Fitzgibbon reproaches his companion with great eloquence for her desertion, whereupon Madame Folsom, the wife of Sir Thornbury Folsom (all is strange in this book, even the names) can restrain herself no longer:

Oh, John! I repent, I repent, blubbered out the poor lady, for her nerves had at last reached the point that must seek relief in tears. And making uncertain movements, as if to take Fitzgibbon to her arms: Hear my confession, said she: I never was happy with Sir Thornbury, but I would have been with you. Forgive me, indeed you must forgive me. I do, said Fitzgibbon. Our span for both of us is nearly out. We are going where hearts will be seen as they are, and actions counted as they deserve. I forgive as I hope to be forgiven, and now—I now propose a kiss of forgiveness. Madame Folsom, wiping her eyes and adjusting her fichu, bridled and blushed a good deal, as indeed Fitzgibbon was doing, but perhaps was indifferent, provided the thing itself took place, what descriptive name was given to it. But, suddenly putting on a decidedly distant air, Sir, said she, I presume there is nothing in my unsophisticated openness, or unguarded words, to lead you to throw away prudence, or venture beyond the bounds of respect and the fences of decorum. You must know there are proprieties that hedge in—I do, I do, said Fitzgibbon eagerly, let us jump over proprieties and the hedge too. And approaching himself still nearer, he was no less pleased than surprised to find the arms, which he thought put out to repel him, first waver, then retreat, and finally embrace him. With only the click of interfering lenses and slight sobs of affection, they remained for a long interval thus nearly related. At last the intercommunication must have an end, and the visit too, for begun considerably after church time it threatened to out last the second service. Fitzgibbon shortly took his leave, more delighted than he had for a long time been with any completed journal. He felt refreshed in his manhood, and thought he would be willing to protract the lovely recreation through several such meetings.

"The click of interfering lenses"—how finely descriptive of the shock of the elderly lovers' two pairs of spectacles! But enough. "Narragansett" has at least the distinction of being the craziest book of the season. As we perused it we thought continually of Foote's famous incoherences—of the great Panjandrum, the gunpowder running out of the heels of the boots, the "what, no soap," and the lady who married the barber. With a slight change, the time-honoured newspaper criticism on novels may be applied to the volumes before us—"The absurdity never flags."

Those persons who think that every work of fiction ought to contain a moral will not, at least in this respect, have any reason to quarrel with "Shadows and Sunshine;" nor will they have to wait until they arrive at the 366th page to discover what is the be-all and end-all of the 365 pages before it. The moral boldly confronts the reader at the very commencement of the book, and with patient obtrusiveness accompanies him to the end; and this moral is, that High Churchmen and Roman Catholics are nearly all very bad, and Evangelicals or Low Churchmen very good persons. True, the writer does not often condescend to indulge in vulgar abuse of the sect which he depreciates; but he adopts quite as effectual a way of showing his opinion of its members. All the Evangelicals in the present volume are rewarded with good health and affluence; all the High Churchmen, or Puseyites as they are called, are not only threatened with something very bad in the next world, but also get very little good in the present. Nay, Puseyism is supposed to affect the outward features of its professors. Dolores Mortimer, the Evangelical young lady, "perhaps was not what might be termed strictly handsome; but, with large purple eyes, drooping eyelids and long eyelashes, a fair complexion and dark hair, few could fail to admire her. She was tall, and had a peculiar refinement in her voice and manner;" &c. We have the following contrasted description of her cousin, Miss Agatha Leslie, a Puseyite young lady: "Her 'February face, so full of frost and storm and cloudiness,' was the very index of her mind; in character she was eccentric, and in temper unyielding and unsocial. She spent very little of her time at home, for she could neither sympathise with, nor find sympathy amongst, those who lived there. She often spoke of self-denial, and thought herself the very pattern of it; but she did not possess the true self-denying principle of charity;" &c. We need scarcely say that the first-named young lady reaps a very bounteous harvest of the good things of the present life. She comes quite unexpectedly into a large fortune, and marries the rector of her parish, who is Evangelical, handsome, virtuous, and talented; while Miss Agatha turns Papist, and dies shortly after in a nunnery at Rome. The author is, however, too charitable to allow the young lady to die in the belief of the Romish creed. On her death-bed she repents; holds a most edifying conversation with a knavish father confessor and a bigoted lady abbess; and dies gasping out indistinctly—"Tell my family—that—I die—a Protestant!" How the fact was divulged it is not very easy to guess, as scarcely were Agatha's last words uttered, when abbess and confessor leagued together to keep the circumstances attending the young lady's death-bed an entire secret. The confessor, however (who is represented as laughing over the remains of his victim), is such a thorough scoundrel, that possibly, in spite of his promise to the contrary, he may be supposed to have discovered the matter unwittingly in his cups, or in his sober moments for a bribe.

We need not sketch the plot of the present volume, which is about as feeble as the most malicious Puseyite could desire; nor particularise,

otherwise than we already have, any of the very commonplace personages who figure in its pages. Had they been written ever so vigorously, they could scarcely have had the effect of disgusting any neutral reader with the so-called Puseyism. As it is, their unfairness is only equalled by their feebleness; and our chief feeling is surprise that the writer should entertain so little charity towards those who differ from him in their religious belief. This book is not a solitary specimen of its kind; but, somehow, fertility of invention and grammar are not generally found united with extreme Low Churchism. Not that we have one whit more admiration for the regular Puseyite novel, where every member of the Evangelical party figures as an unctuous hypocrite or sour-visaged, mirth-hating devotee. The Low Churchman may on paper, if not in reality, be made to look quite as black as the most rampant Puseyite; and somehow it usually happens that the Puseyite paints with a much more vigorous pencil than the Low Church artist. Such of our readers as have seen a novel called "Perversion," which appeared about three years ago, will perhaps recollect how keenly, if not charitably, its clerical author drew his sketches of unattractive "Recordite clergymen;" and how, though he did not always deal very lightly with Tractarianism, his elaborate studies and prize portraits were those of Evangelicals, whom he painted with more than the gusto of professional dislike. For ourselves we deprecate, as certain to be ultimately injurious, the showing up in novels and romances of any particular sect or phase of Christianity. The vulgar adage, that "two can play at the same game," is especially true in the case we are mentioning; and impartial spectators are just as likely to feel disgusted with both of the contending parties, as to bestow their sympathies on one of them.

Miss Kavanagh's three volumes comprise a series of tales all illustrative of French life, and all with Paris for their scene of action. The opening tale, which occupies the entire of the first volume and part of the second, has little or no plot, but is remarkable for its sparkling dialogue. An aged easy-tempered widow lady of fortune, Mme. La Roche, resides in the Marais at Paris. She has with her two old servants, Marie and Charlotte, the very antipodes of each other except in their love for their mistress. Charlotte has a pretty god-daughter named Fanny, whom Mme. La Roche treats rather as a daughter than a servant. A young Parisian upholsterer named Baptiste Watt is engaged to Mlle. Fanny, and various incidents occur to put off their marriage for seven years; *et voilà tout*. This is the entire story, which is unmistakably French both in its character and dialogue, the latter of which, as we said before, is of such high excellence as to make the whole tale a very entertaining one, and quite to reconcile us to the absence of plot. Why the printer should have chosen to head every page throughout the three volumes with the words "seven years" we cannot exactly say; perhaps it is because several of the stories have before appeared in print, and possibly seven years ago. We have spoken of the opening tale as if it had never hitherto appeared in print, and for anything we know to the contrary this is the case. The second tale, however, "The Cheap Excursion," we recognised at once as an old friend. We are also almost certain that we have seen before, in some shape or other, "The Little Dancing Master," "A Soirée in a Porter's Lodge," and "The Mysterious Lodger." The authoress gives us no hint as to any of the tales not being original or having appeared before in print, and therefore we cannot undertake to say that our remarks about "The Cheap Excursion" do not apply to every story in the three volumes. "The Troubles of a Quiet Man" is perhaps the most amusing story in these pages, and likely enough to call into action the risible faculties of all who read them. As we said before, these tales are redolent of French, or rather Parisian life; and the clever dialogue and almost unnatural coincidences of times and circumstances probably betoken a foreign birth. There is scarcely one of them that might not be transformed by a dexterous playwright into "a screaming farce" entirely original.

The Day of Small Things. By the Author of "Mary Powell." (Arthur Hall, Virtue and Co.) pp. 236.—The author of "Mary Powell" has attained a certain popularity among a numerous class of admirers, and so it may be presumed that anything coming from her pen will be taken for granted. Despite the opinion of M. Guizot that this is the only branch of literature in which France does not excel England, we have our opinion about this species of books. This before us is the note-book, or very common-place book, of a very pale, uninteresting life. What care we for Mrs. Cheerlove and her invalided yet pampered life, her piety and self-indulgences, her life of solemn selfishness? Many women live such lives, and fancy that they are religious because they read the Bible every day and repeat a certain modicum of prayers. As a specimen of the life which these religionists of the Cheerlove school of philosophy love to lead, take the following leaf from this particularly uninteresting note-book:

Firstly, Mrs. Kent peeps in before I am up, to see whether the under-housemaid has lighted my fire, and to inquire how I have slept; and to ask whether I will have tea, coffee, or chocolate, in bed or out of it. Then, the aforesaid housemaid (Mary, her name is) helps me to dress, as nicely as Mrs. Kent could do. Then I step into the dressing-room, where I find a clear fire, and breakfast for one awaiting me; chocolate and rusks, may-be, or milk-coffee and French roll; or tea, toast, and a new-laid egg. After this I commence my little prayer-service and Bible-reading, as at home, while a prayer-bell, in some far-off quarter, which they tell me is much too cold for me, summons the household to prayers.

Immediately after this, the three little ones steal in from the nursery, saying,—"Will oo like to—hear our texts?" Of course I say "Yes;" and

then one little creature says, "God is love;" and another reverently repeats, "Little children, love one another;" and another, "Live peaceably with all men." They learn something fresh every day. Then Arbell comes in, and we have long, delightful talks, till Mrs. Pevensy, who sleeps late, is ready to hear her read a portion of Scripture: I think they talk it over a good deal together afterwards. Meanwhile, cheerful "Aunt Kate" looks in on me; brings me the *Times*, or "Pinelli's Etchings," or something by the Etching Club, or Dickens' last number, or anything she thinks I shall like; makes up the fire, and has a cheerful chat; but she does not stay long.

After this, I see no one till the one o'clock dinner, except Rosaline and Flora, who are happy to give me as much of their company as they may, till called off for their walk. At one, we all assemble to a very bountiful meal, presided over by Miss Pevensy and Arbell, who, I am happy to see, already carves neatly and quickly. Then they generally carry me off to the conservatory, music-room, or library, the weather not inviting the delicate to indulge in carriage exercise.

Bravo! It is pleasant to be good on such easy terms.

The Whiskey Demon; or, the Dream of the Reveller. By CHARLES MACKAY, LL.D. Illustrated by Watts Phillips. (Edinburgh: W. P. Nimmo.)—Dr. Mackay's verses in condemnation of whiskey have appeared before, and we have not much to say either in praise or dispraise of them. They are commonplace enough, but are, perhaps, neither better nor worse than the average of such compositions, written from a one-sided point of view, and for the support of a prejudice. It may strike us as not a little strange that the same pen that can write this wholesale and very exaggerated condemnation of the popular beverage of Scotland has also composed an enthusiastic eulogy to Catawba wine, an American imitation of champagne. Upon the subject of temperance we have more than once expressed an opinion that to prohibit the use of good gifts seems to us only one degree less sinful than to misuse them. It is possible to get tipsy upon champagne as upon whiskey, yet Dr. Mackay appears to think that the former liquor should enjoy an immunity from objection. True, people are less likely to be ruined by the expensive wine than by the cheap spirit; but it is the abuse that ruins, and not the use. Another observation to be made about this "Whiskey Demon" is, that it is not whiskey that is so much abused to the ruin of thousands, but gin, the more popular because the more inexpensive drink. The illustrations which Watts Phillips has supplied to Dr. Mackay's poetry are very monstrous and exaggerative. Everything is fire that is not smoke. Squalor, filth, crime, madness, follow in the steps of the demon, who gloats over every ill with Mephistophelian leer, and pours upon mankind the contents of his fiery tumbler. These are not without a certain Callot-like vigour; but we must confess that, to us, the lesson inculcated by Hogarth's "Gin-lane" is more forcible, because more natural.

Ulf the Minstrel; or, the Princess Diamonduck and the Hazel Family. A Dragon Story for Christmas. By ROBERT B. BROUGH. (Houlston and Wright.) pp. 103.—The only objection to this admirable little story is that it is too good—its point and humour will be almost entirely lost upon the youthful students to whom such books are usually submitted. But who is Ulf the Minstrel? After reading all that Mr. Brough has told about him, we are as much at a loss as ever. At one time, when we are told of the good advice which he gave as to the clothing of the army that went to fight the Bactricians, and of the sanitary measures which he recommended, we were inclined to believe that he was none other than King Press in disguise; but towards the end, when it comes to the dragon and the marriage of Princess Diamonduck, we were put into that state of dreamy uncertainty and confusion about the fitness of things which clever fairy tales always produce. And a clever, original, and witty fairy tale this most certainly is.

Idols in the Heart: a Tale. By A. L. O. E. (T. Nelson and Sons.) pp. 302.—Thanks to the many volumes which have proceeded from the pen of this well-known writer of books for the young, *Idols in the Heart* will find those for whom it is intended predisposed in its favour. It is a simple and pleasant tale; full of good feeling and pious sentiments; teaching the vanity of earthly things, and the superiority of heavenly; and well fitted to exercise a purifying effect over the minds which it is likely to influence.

Out and About: a Boy's Adventures. Written for Adventurous Boys. By HAIN FRISWELL. With Illustrations by George Cruikshank. (Groombridge and Sons.) pp. 326.—Mr. Friswell argues logically enough that, if the stamina of a nation lie in its youth, the quality of that youth must depend upon the training of its boys. This is as plain as that two and two make four, and we imagine that no one will be found bold enough to gainsay it. He goes on, however, to assert that one of the great peculiarities of England is, that it has plenty of boys—real boys, and not "little men, dandies, &c.;" and this also is just enough. It is for such boys—the boys that are boys—that he has written this book, and very well has he performed his task. In his educational principles Mr. Friswell evidently belongs to the school of "muscular Christianity," and his opening scene is one that will win applause from the athletic rector of Eversley and delight the heart of the author of "Tom Brown's School-days"—who, by-the-way, now fulfils at the Working Man's College the office of professor of—boxing: a fact not generally known. Here is an extract from it:

"Sit on my knee, Ned," said my backer.

I did so. Flushed somewhat, perhaps; face to face for the first time with actual danger, and feeling rather curiously at the interview.

"Hit straight out!" he continued—"straight out from the shoulder!"

And so on in the same strain. There is, however, much more in the book than this; stories of adventure and travel, high and exciting enterprises. Mr. Friswell takes his hero even to the Feejee Islands, and does not relinquish him until he has brought him home safe, and moored him snugly in the harbour of matrimony.

The World of Ice; or, Adventures in the Polar Regions. By ROBERT MICHAEL BALLANTYNE. (T. Nelson and Sons.) pp. 315. A capital book of adventure in the Polar Regions, evidently founded upon the best and most reliable narratives of actual experience, and told with all that verve which youth so much delights in. With boys, this will be a great favourite.

Chronicles of an Old English Oak; or, Sketches of English Life and History, as Reported by those who Listened to Them. Edited by EMILY TAYLOR. (Groombridge and Sons.) pp. 153.—These "Chronicles" originally made their appearance in a periodical called the *Monthly Packet*. They are in effect homely chronicles of England, told in a style likely to be agreeable to children, and identified with a venerable oak in the New Forest, which, like Mr. Tennyson's oak, is supposed to be endowed with the faculty of speech. It is well written, and agreeably combines amusement with instruction.

The Ulster Revival: a strictly Natural and strictly Spiritual Work of God. Being a reply to certain popular opinions as to its supernatural character. By STEPHEN GWYNN, Jun., A.B. (Coleraine: S. Eccles. 1859.) pp. 45.—The test of revivalism must be its ultimate fruits. If it really be from Heaven—if it be, as Mr. Gwynn insists, a "work of God"—the gates of Hell will not prevail against it; still less can it be put down by editorial comments or correspondents' letters. We are not among those persons who consider revivalism to be a spiritual work; and therefore we shall not be surprised at its speedy disappearance. That many good men believe the contrary we must admit; but even the belief of many good men is not alone sufficient to convince us, until we cease to think that their credulity outruns their logic. Upon the physical phenomena of revivalism we can scarcely give an opinion. Whether they be due to hysteria or to catalepsy—to electricity or magnetism—to one of these, to two or more of them combined, or to none of them—it does not come within our province to pronounce. We can only recommend ardent revivalists to treat with pity rather than contempt the doubting Thomases who refuse to believe with them. As we said before, if revivalism be a work of God, its promoters and advocates must ultimately reap a great reward as the pioneers of a good doctrine. If it be, as we believe, a morbid affection, though it may do considerable mischief before its end come, that end can scarcely be very far off. We may add that Mr. Gwynn's little pamphlet gives a very fair idea of revivalism from a believer's point of view; and that, though his arguments do not convince us, we do not consider the time we have spent in reading them as wasted.

The Past of Scottish Episcopacy. By JOHN PATTERSON, LL.D. (Edinburgh: L. Lendrum and Co. London: J. Masters and Co.) pp. 63.—This is a brief historical sketch of Scottish episcopacy from its foundation to the present day. The author has evidently collected his facts carefully and methodically, and writes with a freedom from sectarian prejudice, which is not always a characteristic of Scottish ecclesiastical history. As a pendant to the general history of Scotland, we recommend this well-written little volume to the attention of our readers.

The Christian's Mirror; or, Words in Season. By A. L. O. E. (T. Nelson and Sons.) pp. 254.—Another volume of the same writer, written in the same style and spirit, and intended as a consolation to surviving spirits for troubles for which the sufferers do not usually seek sympathy, "but which, for that very reason, press all the more heavily upon them."

A Dream of the Day that must come. Edited by the Author of "Morning Clouds." (Wertheim, Macintosh, and Hunt.) pp. 147.—We presume that from the Cumming point of view this will appear to be a realisation of the state of things to come to pass under Seal 7. In the Introduction the author enters upon a kind of inquiry as to the cause and purport of dreams, treating this particular dream as if it were a genuine vision of sleep. Setting aside the question as to whether dreams be supernatural glimpses, or natural irregularities of digestion, we must avow our belief that this is no dream at all, but an allegory intentionally

put together; and that consequently it has nothing to do with any dream theory whatever.

Recreative Science, No. 5 (Groombridge and Sons) is full of excellent scientific matter communicated in simple popular language. Every number seems to show a marked improvement in this periodical. The paper on "Wayside Weeds and their Tendencies," by Dr. Spencer Thompson, is an admirable example of how the simple facts of science may be made interesting when they are used to illustrate the principles of creative law. Here a few leaves and flowers form the text, and the sermon is on Creation. To astronomers, Mr. Burder's account of a portable equatorial will be very welcome. Mr. Friswell's sketch of John Smeaton and his lighthouse labours is very interesting; and Mr. Piesse contributes a capital selection of chemical experiments for "The Young Philosopher at Home."

The Advanced Reading-Book for Adult and other Schools. Lessons in English History. By C. W. JONES, M.A. (Longmans.) pp. 108.—This little manual contains as it were outlines of English history, from the Roman invasion to the great Indian mutiny. It is intended for the use of pupils who have just mastered the rudiments of historical knowledge; and, without burdening their memories with cumbrous details, treats of a few great events—landmarks as it were in the history of the country—of which it gives just such an account as is likely to impress itself upon their minds.

The Leisure Hour: a Family Journal of Instruction and Recreation. 1859. pp. 828.—*The Sunday at Home: a Family Magazine for Sabbath Reading.* 1859. pp. 828. (Published by the Religious Tract Society).—The object of these two periodicals is identical, and both in form and character they are almost precisely similar. Both are composed of tales, sketches, papers and essays, very Protestant in spirit, and for the most part well written; both are illustrated with well-executed wood-cuts, and both are published for a penny; and if their objects are similar, so also are their results, for both, we believe, enjoy enormous circulations. The volumes of these periodicals issued during the past year are before us, and will repay examination. Perhaps objection might be taken to the taste with which some of the views are urged; but it must be remembered that to strong palates strong flavours are agreeable. At any rate, it is not to be denied that both of these periodicals are conducted with considerable ability, and that they tend to the popularisation of a healthy tone of thought. It is such as these that are the antidote to the poisonous cheap trash which finds such a large circulation among the lower order of readers.

We have also received a pamphlet, by JOHN PLUMMER, the Kettering Factory operative, on the *Reduction of the Hours of Labour, as proposed by the Nine Hours' Movement* (Tweedie)—being a sensible reply to the Prize Essay of the United Building Trades. Mr. Plummer is against the movement, and denounces, as all sensible men who understand the question do, the suicidal policy of strikes.—Also a pamphlet, by the same writer, on *The Rights of Labour* (Tweedie)—being an appeal to the people of the United Kingdom against the tyranny, folly, and injustice of trades' unions.—*Kingston's Magazine for Boys.* No. X. (Bosworth and Harrison.)—*Glimpses of Grace and Glory.* By the Rev. C. J. GOODHART, M.A. (Wertheim, Macintosh, and Hunt).—A collection of Sermons.—*The Poetical Works of Thomas Moore.* Part IX. (Longmans.)—*Moore's National Airs.* No. VII. (Longmans.)—*The Comprehensive History of England.* Parts XXV. and XXVI. (Blackie and Son.)—*A Domestic Practice of Homeopathy.* By C. CALVERT HOLLAND, M.D. Part III. (Hamilton, Adams, and Co.)

THE DRAMA, ART, MUSIC, SCIENCE, &c.

THE DRAMA.

WHENEVER THERE IS A GREAT DISCUSSION about anything, we may be pretty certain that it is not quite in a healthy or flourishing state; and the drama is no exception to this maxim. The English drama, or, perhaps, to speak more correctly, the drama in England, if not in a declining, is in an altered state; but this is nothing remarkable, for a drama not founded, like the Greek, on a religious feeling, must always alter with the circumstances of the time; and whatever the faults of the drama, they must be entirely due to the manners, customs, and morality of the people amongst whom it is played. To say, therefore, that the drama has declined, would appear, at first thought, to be saying the times had declined; but this would not be the fact, for the drama may have declined from a higher class to a lower, from a refined and educated to less discriminating audiences, and this we believe to be the true state of the case. The Elizabethan, that is, the Shakespearean drama, was addressed to the very highest intellects. Elizabeth, herself a great mind, surrounded by philosophers, statesmen, commanders, discoverers, and persons of the keenest intellects, would not have listened to the drama of the present day, although high minds are ever ready to enjoy the minutest touches of comedy, and enjoy humour and character. With such audiences the English drama was of the highest kind. It soon, however, became deteriorated; and the silver age began early in James's reign, when the sentimental poets became ideal, and the realistic became licentious. Ford may be taken as a specimen of the former, and Fletcher of the latter tendency. Still they appealed to minds, and not merely to appetites and fancies. They were scholars, and, above all, poets; that is to say, they were highly sensitive, delicate in perception, and powerfully generative of ideas. The drama was still an intellectual product, and wonderfully popular, for it contrived to interest the highest and the lowest, the cultivated and the uncultivated, and drew to its representation all classes of minds, from the practical worldly man to the pedant of the college.

When the Puritan Government put the theatre down forcibly, by fanatically

misconstruing certain passages of Scripture, and being so rude of mind as to mistake the freedom of art for the licentiousness of the flesh, it never rose again in England in its pristine strength. When Royalty was restored, the licentious young monarch brought the ideas of the French stage with him, and henceforth true art was banished from the English stage. The millinery and upholstery, the characteristics of French taste, were the foundation of the decorative portion, and French easiness and profligacy, mistaken for wit and taste, were the staple of the fable and dialogue. Never were the old English dramatists more despised than on the revival of stage plays in Charles II.'s time, although then, as now, there were older people who stood up for what they thought was purely English, not aware how much of that was due to Italian and Spanish models. The drama, from the Restoration in 1660 until 1680 or 90, was distinguished by the corresponding character of the French serious drama of the time, and aped high sentiments and a florid rhetoric; and any one who desires to see the wretched taste of the time should look at Otway's "Caius Marius," which was a Roman version of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," and he will see what were the demands of the age on the dramatist. The Duke of Buckingham's version of the "Merchant of Venice," Dryden's of the "Tempest," and Nahum Tate's of "Lear," will prove what extraordinary perversions the mind may fall into, and how the taste of a people may become depraved.

At the end of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth century comedy was in the ascendant, and wit, gaiety, and a light enunciation of character were predominant. To say fine things, to show up eccentricities, and to portray the most abandoned vice, were the aims of the dramatic writer; and it must be said that five or six of the writers did this very cleverly. Their audiences were, however, limited, and consisted chiefly of men and women of the world, who smiled at the reflection of manners which they could not but condemn, yet could not cure. This class of comedy culminated to its finest state in Congreve's "Love for Love;" and it was well said by old Dennis that "Mr. Congreve quitted the stage early, and Comedy quitted with him." Certainly, after Steele's "Conscious Lovers," no comedy appeared without the

depravation of the sentimental. Pure comedy had entirely quitted the English stage; and henceforth a sermon, and not a satire, was given; and vice, instead of being shown her own hideous image, was preached at. This remained the mode pretty well to the end of the century, though of course there was a variety in the fashion of treating the subject or preaching the stage sermon.

There will be found very little real character, even including Sheridan's plays, in the drama of the last century, though much coarse caricature. Few of the dramas live, and out of a world of plays of the eighteenth century only one has really survived with genuine life, and that is "The School for Scandal;" and that alone, on account of the inimitable polish of the style and excellence of the construction. Examined strictly, however, it scarcely possesses a character real or possible; but it glitters, glides, and sparkles along, and the five acts are over, if well acted, before the imposition as to character and conduct is suspected.

With the commencement of this century commenced a great revolution in the English drama. The French drama was again appealed to, and Melodrama was imported. In 1802 Mr. Holcroft brought out "The Tale of Mystery," a piece described at the time of its introduction as partaking equally of dumb show and dialogue. And herein we see the distinctive characteristic of Melodrama. It is a drama in which the story is more depicted by the action than told in the dialogue. And this quality of action it was that rendered it so popular. The playgoers had grown weary of the preachers and talkers, and they were rejoiced to be interested by the action. Those who could only give words, and had no idea how to construct action, made a great opposition to the new drama, and swore that learning and virtue and sermonising would be driven from the stage. They did not perceive that the greatest dramatist kept his ground because the action of his plays was almost equal to the power and poetry of the language. They went on snarling at their vigorous young sister, Melodrama, and have not yet relinquished the habit. This important introduction has had an enormous success, and during the sixty years of her existence has very frequently changed her dress. At first she was very sanguinary and very superstitious, there always being a murder and generally a ghost in the story. She gradually got milder, and, mingling with the light vaudeville, became musical and even jocular. She gradually enlarged her domain, extended the number of her acts and of her characters, elucidated a complex plot, and depicted a long story—in fact, assumed proportions very like to the elder drama; and has even latterly sought to re-introduce the literary element, thus effecting almost an amalgamation of the two species. Still, however, true to her origin, Action remains the predominating characteristic, and this is the cause of its popularity; for where one individual cares for, or is capable of appreciating, the niceties of character or the power of language, a hundred can be interested in a well-wrought story. We had all much rather be amused than instructed.

To come back, however, to where we set out, the much-talked-of "Decline of the Drama," we may hope to have shown that there is a variation, but not necessarily a declension. Looking to the original pieces produced in the last ten years and the same period a century since, we will aver that the balance is in favour of the present time, as regards nature, cleverness of plot, general interest, and even of language. If it be said that the modern are all taken from the French (and it is not the fact), yet Destouches was to the former period what Scribe and Co. have been to this. Every one of Murphy's Comedies were thus derived, and he may be fairly set against Mr. Tom Taylor in every respect.

We had intended to have applied these remarks to the present state of the stage, and taken a review of the commencement of the present season; but our preliminary remarks have been too extended, and we must therefore defer such application until next week.

There is no novelty of importance to notice, and the little French farce at the Lyceum can be more duly estimated when we come to discuss the apparent aims and intentions of the managers of that theatre. Much should be done by so accomplished an artist as Mme. Celeste in her new undertaking; but there are many perils, which nothing but the finest tact and the soundest judgment can avert. The French drama is not necessarily the paramount drama in London, and we think we perceive proofs that it is daily losing its hold on the public attention, and, indeed, becoming absolutely distasteful to a portion of the play-going class. But of this more hereafter.

ART AND ARTISTS.

TALK OF THE STUDIOS.

THE SALE of oil paintings, engravings, prints, &c., the property of the late Mr. Smith, of Woodcote, near Newport, took place on Monday week. Most of the paintings offered were the production of his own pencil, and comprised sketches from Nature, portraits, &c. Some of the most noted fetched good prices, each person being anxious to possess a memento of the man who lived and moved in their midst, and whose productions in past times have been readily bought up and greatly admired.

The Manchester papers state that although the Art Union in that city has only been in operation five weeks, so successful has been the result, that the committee have invested a considerable sum in three leading prizes, and fixed the day for the drawing; and consequently those who are inclined to support so enterprising a movement, at so trifling a cost—one shilling each ticket—should not delay the application for tickets. It is perhaps not generally known that the plan of a shilling art union was first commenced in Paris, and has since been carried out in Liverpool, the result at both places, as well as in Manchester, being highly successful. The entire sum collected, less the expenses, will be devoted to prizes; but, beyond the three pictures chosen, these cannot be fixed upon until about a week before the drawing.

The following regulations for the admission of the public have been arranged by the Committee of Council on Education, and the Trustees of the National Gallery:—1. The separate entrance to the National Gallery, British School, provided at the request of the trustees of the National Gallery, will be open for

the public on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays, and for students on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, in the daytime only. 2. The public will be admitted to the National Gallery, British School, also through the Museum every day, and on those nights when the Museum is open, according to the regulations of the Museum. On those nights the National Gallery, British School, will be lighted by the department. 3. Wednesday being a public day at the National Gallery, and a students' day at the South Kensington Museum, will hereafter be a students' day at the National Gallery, British School, and the public admitted on payment (6d.) to the South Kensington Museum will be admitted also to the National Gallery, British School, through the Museum only, the National Gallery students being admissible by the separate entrance. 4. On Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, when only students are admitted to the National Gallery, British School, the public admitted by payment (6d.) to the South Kensington Museum will be admitted to the National Gallery, British School, through the Museum only. 5. The National Gallery, British School, will be opened on Monday, Dec. 5.

A Paris correspondent says "The arrival of the copy of the famous picture, 'The Aldobrandini Marriage,' in Paris, has set all artists, amateurs, savans, and dealers by the ears. Is it by Apelles? Is it not by Apelles? That is the question, and already has the war begun. The fresco was discovered at Rome, in the arch of Galba, on Mount Esquiline, about a century ago, and it was not till the year 1808 that it was accepted as being possibly the production of Apelles. The exhibition of this new copy to the susceptible Paris public will be a valuable opportunity of fresh discussion, hatred, malice, and vengeance amongst the savans, which, of course, in these days of business, will not be lost."

A couple of the arches, with a portion of the groining of the Lady Chapel in Bristol Cathedral have been scraped and cleansed of the accumulated white-washings, &c., of centuries, and restored to their original state. A glance at them is quite sufficient to convince anyone of how much beauty lies concealed under the coats of lime colour and ochre which disfigure the other parts of this interesting old structure.

From communications we receive (says the Scotsman) it would appear that there is very considerable dissatisfaction among the subscribers to the proposed monument to James Hogg. Information seems wanted as to who appointed the committee, and by whose authority it has been determined to erect the monument on the Calton-hill.

The winter season of the Science and Art Department of the Kensington Museum was inaugurated on Tuesday evening, under the auspices of the Committee of the Council of Education and Mr. Henry Cole, C.B. The predictions which were made at the time when the removal of the Museum of Ornamental Art to Kensington was first mooted, that the remoteness from town would prevent the public from visiting it, have proved to be unfounded; for whereas the collection was visited by not more than 100,000 persons annually whilst at Marlborough House, the number of visitors at Kensington amounted in 1858 to 456,000; and, as the increase is progressive, it is calculated that the number for 1859 will probably be not less than 600,000.—On Tuesday evening an interesting lecture, "On the Arts of Egypt," was delivered in the theatre, by Dr. G. Kinkel. It formed one of a course of six lectures to be given on the fine arts and art collections; and, although it stands in a printed syllabus as No. 5, it in reality formed the first of the course—a transposition rendered necessary by the sudden illness of Mr. J. C. Robinson, F.S.A., keeper of the art collection in the Museum, who was to have given a lecture "On Ancient Greek Painted Pottery." Dr. Kinkel said that if Egypt was early in point of civilisation, she was also early in point of art; for not only had architecture reached a high degree of perfection, but so also had sculpture and painting. That nation had nearly exhausted their power as artists in their great buildings, but it must not be forgotten that they were the first who invented the proportions of the human body; and were capable, as we were told, though he did not believe all the marvellous stories related by Herodotus, who saw Egypt about 450 years before Christ, that they were capable of chiselling the various parts of the human body in different workshops and then put them together. The pyramids in Lower Egypt had been seen frequently during the middle ages by the crusaders and by traders who frequented the Delta, yet the interior of Egypt was not explored before the time of Napoleon the First, during the French Republic; then the Pyramids fell into comparative insignificance as wonderful works, for then it was that the books of the savans who accompanied the French expedition revealed for the first time the marvels of Egypt. Dr. Kinkel then gave some account of the Pyramids, with respect to which he is evidently inclined to favour the tomb theory. He then went on to speak of the magnificent architecture of Thebes, which arose under the great 18th dynasty, and of the wonders of Carnac. The lecturer next alluded to the Egyptian columns, their formation and ornamentation. They were in Egypt originally very simple, being first merely rock excavations, about 1,700 years before Christ; but at a later period they became more elegant and elaborate. Whatever we might say of Greek architecture, it was certain that the acanthus was not a natural plant; and, if art was to be national, we must borrow our ornamentations of architecture from the natural products of the country itself. With regard to the art of painting among the Egyptians, it was very different from what we called a picture, but it was nevertheless intended by them as a record of their political life. Among them, as amongst the Hindoos, art made no progress, and from the same repressing cause existed the slavery exercised by the priesthood over the people, and the impossibility of breaking through the castes into which they were divided.

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS.

ONE OF THE SURE TESTS of musical progress, as far as the metropolis is concerned, may be deduced from the attendance at St. James's Hall on those evenings when the Monday Popular Concerts "come off." Here good music "fit audience finds," as all are evidently intent on being rightly instructed. A trifling departure from the original plan was manifest at the last meeting. Hitherto the instrumental pieces were from one source only, the vocal from various composers. The vocal portion on Monday was confined to Mozart; the instrumental had a wider range, each piece proceeding from a different master, as the programme will illustrate:

Part I.		
Quartet in E flat, No. 80.	Herr Becker, Herr Ries, Mr. Doyle, and M. Paque.	Haydn.
Duet	"Ah! guarda sorella" Miss Fanny Rowland and Mlle. Behrens.	Mozart.
Song	"L'Addio" Mlle. Behrens.	Mozart.
Song	"Deh, per questo" Mr. Sims Reeves.	Mozart.
Sonata for pianoforte	"Ne plus ultra" Miss Arabella Goddard.	Woeif.

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Part II.			
Quartet in A major (Op. 18, No. 5)	Herr Becker, Herr Ries, Mr. Doyle, and M. Pague.	Beethoven.	
Aria	"Dalla sua pace"	Mozart.	
	Mr. Sims Reeves.		
Song	"O' che il cielo"	Mozart.	
	Miss Fanny Rowland.		
Trio in C minor, No. 2, Op. 66	Miss Arabella Goddard, Herr Becker, and M. Pague.	Mendelssohn.	
	Conductor, Mr. Benedict.		

This, it will be readily perceived, is a rich bill of fare. The quartet of Haydn, through produced in the decline of life, exhibits as much vigour and fancy as almost any of his preceding compositions of the like kind. "Ah guarda" is taken from the opera of "Cosi fan tutte," composed in the year 1790. This opera, although rarely heard, is crowded with beauties; but the pitiful libretto to which the music is wedded is a great drawback to its deserved popularity. Few songs of Mozart's are more expressive than "The Farewell," and few meet with a more enthusiastic welcome in the concert-room. The aria allotted to Mr. Sims Reeves is from "La Clemenza di Tito," another opera of Mozart's, with which the English public of late have not been made familiar. Of Woelfl, the composer of the sonata, very little is known. He studied under Mozart's father and Haydn's brother, and was a staunch advocate for music in its purity, as opposed to the trashy productions which in his day gained so much ascendancy and found so much favour in fashionable quarters. The "Ne plus ultra" took the concert out of the dandy performers of his time so completely, that scarcely any one but Woelfl himself could be found to play it. The sonata has four movements; the allegretto, that on which its chief popularity depends, consists of variations on "Life let us cherish," variations which, even in these days of advanced pianism, require an exponent of very considerable powers to do them full justice. The quartet in A major is one of the six quartets on the Mozartian model, or what is sometimes styled Beethoven's "first manner." An air with variations constitutes the andante, and this movement alone is worth going on a pilgrimage to hear. Mendelssohn's trio in C minor has four movements; the first allegro in C minor is extremely energetic; the andante in E flat is a pretty romanza, in which the violin and violoncello are constantly singing, in the most captivating strains of melody, accompanied by the piano-forte, which occasionally takes up the theme in arpeggio, or otherwise. The scherzo in G minor is a restless movement, conceived in Mendelssohn's happiest manner. Owing to the necessary rapidity of utterance, the qualities of the three performers engaged are severely tested. In the finale, the subjects of the allegro are interspersed with brilliant passages for the piano, and finely sustained cantabile in the stringed instruments, of a sentimental, joyous, and at times dramatic character, demanding great delicacy and vigour of execution. All these points were admirably worked out, and gave, in consequence, a worthy coup to the concert in general, and to this composition in particular. Herr Becker, the principal violinist, who performed on Monday for the first time in England, brings strong testimonials from a German court. The other artists concerned fully established their well-won reputation. It requires the possession of no ordinary amount of talent, as well as skill in the direction of it, before an individual, or even two, can attract a nightly auditory while the metropolitan field is so thickly strewn with entertainments variable in kind, excellent in character, and admirable in development. One would think that there was no market for seeming trifles, and that the bare recital of incidents in the lives of small celebrities who "flourished" centuries ago would nowadays have become so void of interest that the present generation would cease to take any notice of them whatever. Such in all probability would be the case were not efficient modes adopted for enlisting attention, winning the ear, and ultimately captivating the senses. Over and over again have experiments of an evening with "Old English Song and Ballad Writers" been tried, and with variable successes; but rarely has a nightly performance such as that given by Miss Poole and Mr. Ramsden, at the Gallery of Illustration, been so decidedly a hit. A prologue, written by Mr. Mark Lemon, and spoken by Miss Poole, prepares the way for a series of anecdotes, many of which are extremely amusing, even if taken apart from the subject of the song to which they relate. It is hardly necessary to dwell upon the treatment that any English ballad receives when taken in hand by Miss Poole. She has long been at the head of this department. Mr. Ramsden, the lecturer and accompanist, undertakes to prove that the first-written harmony is traceable to the English, and adduces a six-part composition as far back as A.D. 1250, "Summer is icumen in." Old ditties, narrative and pathetic ballads, minstrel melodies, with a story about "Sally in our Alley." Byrde's eight reasons why everybody should sing; Maypole music, among others, a capital song having for its burthen "Oh, the Oak and the Ash," keep the vocal interest continually alive, while,

Of conducted by historic truth.
We tread the long extent of backward time.

We get on but slowly with operatic novelties. The revolutions of the Covent Garden wheel have exhibited "Dinorah" twice, the "Rose of Castille" twice, while "Satanella" and the sparkling "Crown Diamonds" have been permitted to doze with less disturbance. Notwithstanding this continual reproduction, the nightly gatherings seem to say that the magnetic influences so long potent in Covent Garden are not as yet entirely spent. In fact the representation of Auber's captivating comic opera on Wednesday brought one of the fullest houses during the season.

The short series of Promenade Concerts at Drury-lane is now rapidly drawing to a close. Among the salient features since our last review, the night of Thursday is noteworthy as being dedicated to Weber, and that of Saturday to Beethoven. On the first occasion alluded to, the instrumental music consisted chiefly of the overtures to "Oberon," "Der Freischütz," and a concerto for the pianoforte. Saturday's programme contained the overture to "Fidelio," a violin concerto, and the Pastoral Symphony. Herr Pauer, as a soloist, represented Weber, and Herr Wieniawski achieved the task set him by the yet greater musical potentate, Beethoven. The overtures to "Oberon" and "Der Freischütz" are familiar to every ear, and are admired by all who pretend to any love for the wild and fairy, or the romantic and mysterious. That to "Fidelio" exhibits genius in her most wanton mood, unrestrained and rarely keeping in view the subject she sets out with. The glorious Pastoral—once regarded as too long by half for the quantity of ideas that it contains—appeared to command the closest attention on the part of the auditory, most of whom were intent on catching the beauties that bestud the whole composition. Volumes have been written in describing them, numberless analyses made, and language, if not exhausted, has been impoverished in application of praise. There is scarcely a bar that has escaped the scrutiny and admiration of that large and wide-spread family who have breathed the atmosphere of music since the Pastoral was first ushered into notice. On the subsequent Tuesday the "committee of gentlemen" deemed it politic to dispense with the classical structure of the programme previously adopted for the first part of the entertainment, and introduced the mixed order—to our thinking a very strange and injudicious one. Part second opened with a boisterous march, dedicated to the rifle volunteer corps of England, in which a drummer, uniformed for the occa-

sion, displayed his extraordinary agility with the sticks, and kept up such a perpetual tan-tan-tan-tan that none but the deaf "would crave a wish to hear." The overture to "Fra Diavolo" that followed was indeed a treat. Mme. Lemmens Sherrington is not to blame if half England are unversed in the "Shadow Song;" and, travel where we may, we find Miss Laura Baxter at "Home, sweet Home." Whatever may have been the weaknesses and musical shortcomings during the time to which this notice refers, certain it is that Wieniawski has atoned for them all. He is a very colossus, and seems to bestride the musical world like a giant.

"Elijah," the most striking production of modern times, and, taken altogether, the greatest of Mendelssohn's achievements, was performed on Wednesday at St. Martin's Hall, under the direction of Mr. John Hullah, with signal success. Not only does "Elijah" maintain its hold on the musically learned, but it invariably enchains the attention of those less versed in the art, and is never lost upon the totally uninitiated. These effects are traceable to the sublime language and music combined, which no single art even in its highest manifestations can possibly equal. The short prologue "As God the Lord," with which the oratorio commences, was never better given by Mr. Weiss as Elijah than on this occasion; his voice, without any strong effort, filled the room, and in the delivery of the lines "There shall not be any dew or rain these years, but according to my word," he imparted a highly expressive and appropriate colouring. In the first chorus the singers exhibited a want of self-confidence. But having got fairly under weigh, they gained in strength and decision, and went through their subsequent work as conquerors. The small warning voice of the angel who in measured passionless tones bids Elijah conceal himself by "Cherith's brook," touchingly portrayed by Miss Huddart, led up in the best possible manner to the faith-inspiring double quartet, "For He shall give His angels charge over thee," which brought into notice the whole array of principals, in the persons of Madame Lemmens Sherrington, Miss Mina Poole (her first appearance), Miss Fanny Huddart, Miss M. Bradshaw, with Messrs. Wilbye Cooper, W. Evans, Henry Barnby, and Weiss. Not to glide insensibly into a fresh recapitulation of the numerous points in the oratorio, we may allude to the opening solo of the widow (Madame Sherrington) in the intensely dramatic dialogue with the prophet, "What have I to do with thee?"—the recitative of the angel (Miss Poole) just before the inscrutable revelation of the Almighty to his favourite prophet—the trio, "Lift thine eyes," in which Miss Bradshaw sustained a part—the solo, "O, rest in the Lord," (Miss Huddart)—the aria, "If with all your hearts" (Mr. Cooper)—the tauntings of Elijah to the priests of Baal, and the quartet and chorus, "Holy, holy"—as being especially remarkable for truth to text and forbearance in its delivery. Attempts were made for a rehearsing of several exceedingly choice portions of the oratorio, but the conductor's ear was, in nearly every instance, deaf. The Hall, as usual, exhibited a large and attentive auditory.

CONCERTS DURING THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON. Monday Popular Concerts. St. James's Hall. 8.
Amateur Musical Society. Second Concert. Hanover-square Rooms. 8.
Beaumont Institution, Mile-end. Second Concert. 7.
TUES. Herr N. de Becker's Concert at the Ealing Assembly Rooms.
WED. Second Annual Concert for the Filinco Literary Mechanics' Institution, St. James's Hall. 7.
THURS. ... Mr. Henry Leslie's Choir. First Concert. St. Martin's Hall. 8.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

RUMOUR STATES that M. Gounod's "Faust" will form part of Mr. Gye's programme at Covent Garden next season, and that Mme. Miolan-Carvalho as *Marguerite* and Sig. Tamberlik as *Faust*.

The Crystal Flower Market, adjoining the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden, will soon be completed, and bids fair to realise all the splendid anticipations which have been formed of it. The entrance from Covent Garden is very beautiful.

Messrs. L. Estridge, New College, Oxford, and C. A. Thruston, University College, honorary secretaries of the University Musical Union, have given notice that a private concert will be given at the Star Assembly Room this day, Saturday, the 10th inst., at eight o'clock.

A preliminary meeting of the London Orchestral Association was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Thursday night, under the presidency of Mr. Benedict, for the purpose of electing a committee of management, enrolling members, &c.

A circumstance has just occurred calculated to disconcert the present endeavours to obtain a uniform depression of the musical pitch. The plan adopted by the Parisian *savans* was founded on inquiries tending to show the gradual rise of the pitch during the past century. But an eminent musician, M. de la Fage, has communicated to the *Gazette Musicale* the discovery of a tuning-fork which undeniably belonged to the celebrated Gretry, and which proves that the pitch of the *Opera Comique* in his time was 878 vibrations per second, higher by eight vibrations than the new pitch proposed to be established by the recent commission, and ordered by an imperial decree.

According to the local papers, the adjourned meeting of the Manchester Glee and Choral Union, was held on Thursday night, the 1st inst. It was decided that the musical capacity of each individual should be tested, the main object of the society being to organise, if possible, the best choral singers in Manchester. There were three gentlemen proposed as competent to undertake the duties of conductor; the result being that a deputation was appointed to wait upon Mr. Glover to ascertain if he would undertake the office. A large number of applications for membership having been received, a provisional committee was appointed, and the meeting adjourned to Thursday, the 8th.

A meeting was held on Wednesday last at the London Tavern to adopt measures for completing and reopening the new Polytechnic Institution. Mr. Samuel Gurney, M.P., was in the chair, and many influential members of Parliament and gentlemen were present. According to the report, which was read by the secretary, promises of support had been received to the extent of 8365*l*. After some discussion, it was resolved that the progress made justifies the immediate registration of a limited liability company, under the title of the Polytechnic Institution, Limited, with a capital of 20,000*l*, in shares of 10*l*. A provisional committee was then appointed.

It is stated that there is to be no Westminster Play this year, and the paragraph which is "going the rounds" of the papers adds: "Dean Buckland strove to put it down, but failed. His successor, Dean Trench, has, however, been more successful." We know not what foundation there may be for this statement, but we are inclined to believe that Mr. Scott, the head master, has had far more to do with the suppression of this time-honoured custom than either of the right reverend deans. At any rate, we cannot but regard the fact as a regrettable one. It was to Westminster what "Speech-day" is to other public schools, and these occasions have their value not only in teaching the arts and graces of acting, but in giving youths confidence to speak boldly before a mixed audience.

The *Sherborne Journal* states that Mr. Macready gave a reading from the English Poets, at the Town-hall, Weston-super-Mare, on Thursday evening, the 1st inst., for the benefit of the Working Men's Institute and other educa-

tional societies. R. A. Kinglake, Esq., the president of the institute, presided, and a very numerous audience attended. Before entering on the subjects which he had selected to read that evening, Mr. Macready said that it would not be out of place if he made some reference to that art by which they endeavoured to convey to their hearers not only the words, but the inner feelings of the heart. It might, perhaps, appear to some that he set too high an estimate in dignifying that as an art in which no one confessed to a deficiency. Every one could read; but, he asked, could every one listen to their reading? For his own part, one of the greatest of intellectual luxuries was to listen to the powerful reading of the eloquent utterances of their great writers. Let him put in a word for reading as an accomplishment. He believed it was an accomplishment which required as much time and practice for its acquirement as the music of their first composers. Mr. Macready then read the story of *Le Fèvre*, from Sterne's "Tristram Shandy;" Campbell's "Exile of Erin;" a passage from the Fifth Book of Milton's "Paradise Lost," including Eve's Dream and Adam's Morning Hymn; Campbell's "Lord Ullin's Daughter;" and an act from Shakespeare's "Henry IV.," where Prince Henry removes the crown from his father's pillow.

The Edinburgh correspondent of the *Stirling Journal*, discoursing on Miss Helen Faucit's appearance at the Queen's Theatre, says: "She is as graceful and as natural as ever. Time seems to write no wrinkle on her azure brow, and she has met here with her usual success." The *Caledonian Mercury*, commenting upon this, says: "Distance must have lent enchantment to that gentleman's view of Miss Faucit's countenance. We don't remember that the lady looked particularly blue."

M. Meyerbeer has left Paris for Berlin, to resume his duties as chapel-master to the King of Prussia.

It is said that Prince Jerome Bonaparte was so pleased with Mme. Viardot Garcia in "Orphée" that he has presented her with a valuable bracelet.

The Times is "requested to state that the nose of M. Espinosa, the clever dancer of the "Pas de Dervish," is not manufactured. A boon of nature has been mistaken for a work of art."

M. Roger, the celebrated French tenor, who lost an arm lately by a gun accident, is about to reappear at a benefit representation, in which he will sing one act of "La Dame Blanche," one of "La Favorita," and one of "Le Prophète."

The French papers state that M. Granier de Cassagnac, now political editor of the *Pays*, and for some time past a partisan writer in the service of the Emperor of the French, has read a five-act comedy to the committee of the Théâtre Français; it is entitled "Le Mariage." After patiently enduring the infliction, the committee went through the form of accepting it, *subject to correction*, which is nothing but a polite form of rejection.

A Paris correspondent supplies the following: "An unfortunate incident occurred at the Opera last night. That dull and stupid, but splendid spectacle, "Herculanum," was being represented. Amongst the spectators was the young Marquis de Gallifet, with his beautiful bride, the daughter of M. Charles Lafitte, to whom the handsome young marquis was married but a few days past. Near to them was seated General Lauriston, an officer of high repute under the restoration. The old general could not control his admiration for Madame de Gallifet within the bounds which the bridegroom's susceptibilities had prescribed; his *lorgnettes* were incessantly *braquées* on the fair bride. The young marquis left his box, and insulted the general; an altercation ensued, and, I regret to say, blows were exchanged; and, as both belligerents are in the army, a meeting is inevitable. A duel has been arranged for this day, but the result has not as yet transpired.

We learn from St. Petersburg that Mme. Charton-Demeur is a great favourite at court as well as at the Italian Opera of that city, having been commanded to sing before the imperial family. Tamberlik and Mme. Nantier-Didiée are as popular as ever. A musical society has been formed at St. Petersburg by royal command.

MADAME TUSSAUD.—A group which forms an important component part of the series of portraits of the kings and queens of England is now added to the collection in the Baker-street Gallery, and is amongst the best things therein to be seen. It is the waxen copies by an eminent modeller of the original likeness taken from life upwards of eight centuries ago, and still in good preservation on the Bayeux tapestry. The modeller has adhered closely to his prototypes, so that in outline, costume, ornamentation, and character, his work is an exact translation of that from which he copied. This group has been procured after a great deal of trouble, and is of equal interest and much more respectability than the effigies of all the murderers and poisoners put together.

SCIENCE AND INVENTIONS.

MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETIES.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—On Wednesday evening, J. B. Lawes, Esq., in the chair, the paper read was "On the Forces used in Agriculture," by Mr. J. C. Morton. The author said that the three forces to which he would refer were steam power, horse power, and manual labour. Each of them had employment in our present English agriculture; and one object of the paper was to point out the extensive fields open, especially to the first and last of them, in the agriculture of the future. Everything by which, on the one hand, land was brought to a uniform condition, and by which, on the other, the quantity of its living produce was increased, would extend the first and last of these three fields of agricultural operations, and diminish the necessity of employing horses. This was, in fact, the principal lesson of the agricultural experience of the last few years. If we knew for several successive years exactly the employment of our agricultural labourers (its nature, its quantity, and its reward) on each of the farms which make up the surface of Great Britain; and if we also knew the quantity and the manner during all these years of the horse-labour of all these farms, its cost per acre and its effect; and if, in addition to all this information, we had the full experience, now very considerable, of the use of steam power upon the farm, not only for threshing, and grinding, and cutting, but for cultivating the soil—we should certainly learn from it how rapid had been the extension of those circumstances under which steam cultivation becomes possible, and how perfectly along with it the demand for agricultural labour had been maintained. Such a review of agricultural experience would, however, teach us more than this, for by a comparison of the experience of different farms we should learn the most economical mode of obtaining those powers, and the best way of applying each within the field thus open to it. In comparing horse power with steam power, it was not on a comparison merely of the cost of horse power in the animal and in the engine that any great superiority of the latter would appear. In addition to this, the performances of which they are severally capable must be taken into account: and if this were done the superiority of the engine to the horse would at once become manifest. The injury done to the land by the trampling of horses, and the small portion of the year during which they could be employed, with the expense of keeping—which, of course,

extended throughout the whole year—were important points in the consideration of the question. Mr. Morton quoted many instances to show the superior quality of steam ploughing over that done in the ordinary manner, and stated his belief that by steam power at least three out of every seven horses on arable land might be dispensed with in the year, at a cost not exceeding the cost of three horses during the three or four months when alone they are really needed on the land. The author then referred to various operations, such as the carrying of produce, which must, he thought, still require horse labour; and then passed to those requiring skill and thought, and so necessitating the employment of manual labour. It was most remarkable that agriculture, which was once wholly the work of man's hands, but which had long since given up most of its operations to the horse, and which had latterly given up many processes to steam power, should nevertheless require more labourers than ever; that steam being first, the horse-power second, and the agricultural labourer nowhere in the race, considering the three merely as economical producers of power, the last should nevertheless be wanted more than ever. The explanation lay in this, that agriculture was more and more becoming the work of intelligence and skill, as well as power. Those parts of its processes where intelligence and skill were wanted were becoming a larger portion of the whole. Mr. Morton quoted from returns of notice that wages, instead of falling, had been raised, as he showed by statements relating to most of the counties in England. In conclusion, he pointed out how important it was to the farmer to secure upon his land the best labourers, and offered various suggestions for the accomplishment of this object.

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN.—On Monday, Dec. 5, the general meeting was held, William Pole, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Thomas Richards Andrews, Esq., George March Harrison, Esq., Andrew Halley Knight, Esq., Hon. Augustus Henry Vernon, Lachlan Mackintosh Esq., Esq., M.A., Alfred Smee, Esq., F.R.S., and William Swann, Esq., were duly elected members of the Royal Institution. The secretary announced that the following arrangements had been made for the lectures before Easter, 1860: Six lectures on the Various Forces of Matter (adapted to a juvenile auditory), by Professor Faraday, D.C.L., F.R.S., &c., Fullerian Professor of Chemistry, R.I.; to be delivered in the Christmas Vacation, 1859-60. Twelve lectures on Fossil Birds and Reptiles, by Professor Owen. Twelve lectures on Light, including its Higher Phenomena, by Professor Tyndall. Ten lectures on the Relations of the Animal Kingdom to the Industry of Man, by Dr. Edwin Lancaster, M.D., F.R.S.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Nov. 29, 1859, Joseph Locke, Esq., M.P., Pres., in the chair.—The paper read was "On Arterial Drainage and Outfalls," by Mr. R. B. Grantham, M.I.C.E. The paper stated that there was, perhaps, scarcely a district in this country where one of two conditions did not exist; either the lands could not be drained at all, or they were injuriously affected by the drainages of those above them. Owing to the extensive system of subterranean, or pipe drainage, and to the field drains and ditches being better cleared out than formerly, there had been a large increase in the water flowing down rivers, brooks, and minor streams. The effect of this was, that the water was discharged in a shorter time, causing more frequent floods, as the brooks and streams were of inadequate size; and at other times the rivers and streams contained less water than formerly, in many cases not sufficient for the supply of the towns and country dependent on them. To give some idea of the magnitude of this system, it was stated that, within the last ten years, about four millions sterling had been expended in the drainage of 800,000 acres, under the control of the Inclosure Commissioners of England; and it was estimated, that probably twice that amount had been laid out by the Crown, by corporate bodies, and by private individuals. The tendency of mills, weirs, dams, and other obstructions in rivers, as well as the crooked and confined channels of the rivers themselves, to impound the upland waters, was next adverted to. And, on the other hand, the injury which lands suffered, by being inundated by the drainage of the uplands, from the want of combination among the possessors of property, was shown. The impediments which at present exist, to prevent arterial drainage being carried out on a combined system, were attributed mainly to the state of the law; which required to be modified and changed, and its powers enlarged and liberalised, as had been previously stated. The points which more immediately concerned the engineer were, the straightening and deepening both internal and tidal rivers, and the removal of mills, dams, weirs, and other obstructions, in order to produce uniform inclinations towards the outfalls of streams. The gradients, or inclinations, must be adapted to the soil through which the rivers flow, to obviate the scouring action of the water on the banks and bottoms of their courses. It was also necessary to impound the surplus water, so as to preserve a uniform minimum supply to the channels of rivers at all times; to provide works available to take off field drainage, and for the irrigation of adjoining lands, for the reconstruction of bridges and culverts under public roads, and for the application of the water to the supply of towns and villages which in many instances might be altogether deprived of their supply, by any thorough system of drainage. The arterial drainage and outfall works executed in Ireland since 1846, the year of famine, were then alluded to, as forming the best examples of such works in the United Kingdom; although some were imperfectly projected at first, owing to the hasty manner in which they were necessarily undertaken, and the cost had much exceeded the original estimates. Probably the largest work in the world, in reclaiming an extensive area of country from the effects of stagnant water and floods by arterial drainage, was that in the Fen districts, commonly called the Bedford Level, to which attention was next directed. This enormous tract of land was originally a freshwater estuary of the Wash—for many ages the sole characteristic of the Fens—into which the rivers Witham, Welland, Glen, Nene, and Ouse were discharged. A detailed account of these extensive drainage works were then given. Other extensive drainage works were referred to. The paper concluded by noticing the commissioners of sewers, first instituted in the reign of Henry VI., who were acting in every part of the country, having jurisdiction on the borders of the sea, or tidal rivers. Their duties were to repair sea or river banks, and to keep the main drains and outfalls of level districts in repair, and clear them for the passage of water. Their powers were not sufficiently extensive, and it was stated that their constitution would have to be remodelled, in the event of any fresh legislative measure being carried upon this subject.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—Nov. 30th. Prof. John Phillips, President, in the chair. The following communications were read: 1. "On some Bronze Relics from an Auriferous Sand in Siberia." By T. W. Atkinson, Esq., F.G.S. During the author's stay at the gold mine on the river Shargan, in Siberia (Lat. 59° 30' N. and Long. 96° 10' E.) in August, 1851, some fragments of worked bronze were dug up by the workmen at a depth of 14 feet 8 inches below the surface, from a bed of sand in which gold nuggets occur. This sand rests on the rock, and is covered by beds of gravel and sand, overlain by two feet of vegetable soil. The fragments appear to have belonged either to a bracelet or to some horse-trappings. 2. "On the Volcanic Country of Auckland, New Zealand." By Charles Heaphy, Esq. Communicated by the President. The isthmus-like district of Auckland and its neighbourhood, described by Mr. Heaphy as a basin of tertiary deposits, is bordered by clay-

slate, igneous rocks, and at one spot on the south by cretaceous strata; and it is dotted by upwards of sixty extinct volcanoes, often closely situated, and showing in nearly every instance a well-defined point of eruption, generally a cup-like crater, on a hill about 300 feet high. Interesting instances of successive volcanic eruption are numerous all over this district, sixty miles round Auckland. 3. On the Geology of a part of South Australia." By T. Burr, Esq. From the Colonial Office; 1848. In describing two volcanoes in South Australia, Mount Gambier and Mount Schanck, Mr. Burr remarked that, coming from the west or north-west, at about twenty miles from these hills a white coral-limestone (Bryozoan limestone) containing flint or chert, takes the place of the limestones and calcareous sandstones, with recent sand-formation, previously passed over. This white limestone is remarkable for the numerous deep well-like water-holes in it, within about twelve miles of the volcanic mountains and about east or west of them. Mount Gambier has a height of 900 feet above the sea (600 feet above the plain), and has three craters, lying nearly east and west, and occupied with lakes of fresh water. Mount Schanck, at a distance of about nine miles, magnetic south, is circular, and has one large, and two small lateral craters. 4. "On some Tertiary deposits in South Australia." By the Rev. Julian Edmund Woods. Communicated by the President. The part of the colony referred to lies between the river Murray on the west, and the colony of Victoria on the east; and includes an area 156 miles long, north and south, and 70 broad from east to west. Some trap-dykes and four volcanic hills are almost the only interruptions to the horizontality over these plains, which rise gradually from the sea, and are occupied by the tertiary beds to be noticed; they extend into Victoria for some seventy miles as far as Port Fairy. The whole district is honeycombed with caves—always, however, in the higher grounds in the undulations of the plains. One of the caves in a ridge on the northern side of Mosquito Plains is 200 feet long, is divided into three great halls, and has extensive side chambers. The caves have a north and south direction, like that of the ridge. The large cave has a great stalactite in it; and many bones of *Marsupialia* are heaped up against this on the side facing the entrance; possibly they may have been washed up against this barrier by an inflowing stream. The dried corpse of a native lies in this cave. It has been partially entangled in the stalactite; but this man was known to have crept into the cave when he had been wounded some fourteen years ago. Many of the caves have great pits for their external apertures, and contain much water. Some shallow caves contain bones of existing *Marsupialia*, which have evidently been the relics of animals that fell into the grass-hidden aperture at top. The caves appear in many cases to be connected with a subterranean system of drainage; currents and periodical oscillations being occasionally observed in the waters contained in them. There is but little superficial drainage. One overflowing swamp was found by the author to send its water into an underground channel in a ridge of limestone. A coarse limestone forms a ridge along the coast-line, and it contains existing species of shells. This indicates an elevation of the coast of late date, and which probably is still taking place.

CHEMICALS.—Dec. 1st: Prof. Brodie, president, in the chair.—W. Smith, Esq., was elected a Fellow. Messrs. Perkin and Duppa read a paper "On the action of Pentachloride of Phosphorus upon Tartaric Acid." They succeeded in obtaining a new bibasic acid, having the formula $C_8H_3ClO_8$ —probably a chloro-derivative of maleic acid. Dr. Hofmann read a paper "On the Vapour-density of Ethylenamine." He showed that the vapour-density of this compound corresponded to four volumes of vapour. It was the first instance in which the vapour-density of a diamine had been satisfactorily established. The vapour-density of the hydrate of ethylenamine corresponded to eight volumes of vapour, probably because it became decomposed into two distinct molecules—one of water and one of ethylenamine. Dr. Hofmann also described some experiments on the decomposition of different gases by the electric discharge from a Ruhmkorff's coil. In the course of a few minutes two volumes of ammonia were decomposed into three volumes of hydrogen and one volume of nitrogen; carbonic acid was decomposed into carbonic oxide and oxygen, which, after they had reached a certain quantity, were recomposed into carbonic acid.

STATISTICAL.—Nov. 15th, Colonel Sykes, V.P., M.P., in the chair. Thomas Ellison, Francis Hincks, Basset Smith, P. M. Tait, and W. G. Wilks, Esqs., were elected Fellows of the society. The chairman announced that the council had appointed a committee to take into consideration the best mode of taking the forthcoming census, which committee would be glad to receive any suggestions which the Fellows of the society might wish to make. The chairman also gave an account of the proceedings of section F. of the British Association at its meeting at Aberdeen in September last; and Mr. James Heywood furnished a similar report of the proceedings of the National Social Science Association, at its recent meeting at Bradford. Sir Francis H. Goldsmid, Bart., Q.C., then read a paper "On some recent statistics of Prussia." Sir Francis commenced by stating that the paper which he was about to read was deduced from the very valuable series of returns published by the Prussian Statistical Department for the year 1849. But, as these returns were comprised in several quarto volumes, of many hundred pages each, he (the author) had found it necessary to confine his attention to only a portion of their contents. He had therefore selected for analysis the 2nd vol. of the returns, which contained the statistics of births, marriages, and deaths. One of the most remarkable facts in connection with the births, both in Prussia and in continental Europe generally, was the very large proportion of illegitimate to legitimate births. It was stated by the editor of the Prussian returns, that while in London the children born out of wedlock are only 1 in 20, in Paris and Vienna every third child is illegitimate, and in Munich years have even occurred when the number of illegitimate births has outnumbered the legitimate. In Prussia itself, however, the relative proportions of these two classes of births is not so largely to the disadvantage of the latter; and it is worthy of remark that no material alteration has taken place in this respect since the year 1816. In that year the illegitimate births were to the legitimate as 8-05, in 1849 as 7-96 to 100. In Westphalia, however, in the province of Posen, and in the Rhenish provinces, the proportion of illegitimate births is only about half as great as in the other parts of the kingdom. With regard to the proportion of births to the population in Prussia, Sir Francis stated that from 1810 to 1825 the proportion was about 1 to 23, from 1828 to 1846 about 1 to 25 or 26, but that in 1849 it again reached 1 to 23. In the towns the proportion is 1 to 25-68, in the country as 1 to 22-88. In Berlin, in the year 1849, the proportion was 1 to 30-81. As regards the different religious communities, the proportion among Protestants and Catholics is about the same; but among the Jews and Mennonites it is smaller. This is accounted for, as respects the Jews, by the fact that Jewish disabilities are not yet removed in Prussia. The proportion of male and female births is much the same in Prussia as in other countries. Since 1816 the excess of male over female births has been pretty nearly uniform at 6 per cent. for the whole kingdom; but it is a noticeable fact that among illegitimate births the relative proportions are smaller than among legitimate. Among the former there are only 103-7 boys to 100 girls, while among the latter the proportion is 105-79 to 100. The death-rate as compared with the births was in 1849 498-862, as against 691-562; and while the excess of male births was 19-428, the excess of male deaths was 19-826. It was found that boys and young men died more quickly than girls and young women. Between the ages of 25 and 80 the deaths were equal

in both sexes. From 30 to 40 the excess was on the female side; after that to 60 it was on the male side again, so that among very old persons it was found that more females died than males. The rate of mortality in Prussia, as compared with the population, varied between 1816 and 1849 from 1 in 28 to 1 in 37, the highest mortality having been in 1831—the cholera year. The editor of the returns, in reference to the causes of this excessive mortality, advocated a theory, which had also been favoured by Von Humboldt, that difference of race had some influence on the rate of mortality. But Sir Francis expressed his belief that drainage, ventilation, water-supply, and other sanitary precautions, had more to do with health and longevity than anything else, although it was undoubtedly the fact that the rate of mortality is higher among the Slavonic than the purely German races. It was worthy of remark that the mortality among the Jews in Prussia was considerably less than among the rest of the population—a circumstance which Sir Francis attributed to the diet, temperance, and superior cleanliness of that community. In the discussion which followed the reading of the paper Mr. Acton, Mr. Newmarch, Mr. Elliott, Dr. Guy, and the Chairman took part, and the meeting separated.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- MON. London Inst. 7. Professor Tyndall, "On the Radiation and Absorption of Heat." Geographical 8. 1. Mr. W. H. Purdon, "On the Physical Configuration of the Valley of Kashmir." 2. Lieuts. Mayne, R.N., and Palmer, R.E., and Chief-Justice M. Begbie, "Journeys in the Districts bordering on the Thompson, Fraser, and Harrison Rivers, British Columbia." Medical 9. Clinical Discussion.
- TUES. Syro-Egyptian 7. Mr. W. F. Ainsworth, "On the Natural History of Dragons." Civil Engineers, 8. Annual General Meeting. Medical and Chirurg. 8.
- WED. London Inst. 7. Mr. E. W. Brayley, "On the Physical History, Structure, and Materials of the Earth." Society of Arts 8. Mr. William Hawes, "On the Great Eastern." Geological 8.
- THURS. Antiquaries 8. Chemical 8. 1. Dr. Moldenhauer, "On the production of Starch." 2. Prof. Bloxam, "On the application of Electrolysis to the detection of the poisonous metals in mixtures containing organic matter." 3. Mr. Barratt, "On the Carbonates of alumina, and the sesquioxides of iron and chrome." Linnean 8. 1. Dr. Seemann, "On the genus *Spathodea*." 2. Mr. Spruce, "On the mode of branching of Amazon Trees." 3. Mr. Oliver, "Notes on the Society's British Herbarium." 4. Mr. Mitten, "On Indian *Hepatica*, and Mr. Woolf's *Hours of Paramatta*."
- FRI. London Inst. 7. Mr. Thomas A. Malone, "On Certain Principles of Vegetable and Animal Chemistry, and their application to the Arts and Purposes of Life."

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS.

STATISTICS.—The *Annuaire* of the Bureau of Longitude has just appeared, and contains the following among other information and statistics: "During the present régime there has been struck at the Mint gold coin to the value of 3,463,265,980, or 138 millions sterling, and silver amounting to 184,285,578,50c, or nearly 74 millions sterling. The total amount coined since 1793 to the present time is 9,710,747,892, in gold and silver. The number of births that occurred in 1858 was 37,451, of which 11,757 were illegitimate, or nearly 1 to 3. There were in the year 12,016 marriages and 32,362 deaths, so that the excess of births was upwards of 5,000, or in the proportion of 1 in 6, or nearly 16 per cent. The consumption of wine in Paris, in 1858, was 1,468,512 hectolitres of 22 gallons English; of spirits, 80,470, and of cider, 20,878 hectolitres. The quantity of meat consumed, of all kinds, was 28,136,473 kils. of 2-1-5 lbs. English; salt-water fish, 9,222,820, worth; oysters, 2,053,072, fresh-water fish, 1,076,154; poultry and game, 18,315,708; butter, 19,328,785; and eggs, 9,641,744. The consumption of coal and peat was 406,590,121 kils.; that of wood is not given.

ANOTHER CURE FOR CHOLERA.—The *Courrier de Charleroi* announces that Dr. Defontaine, of Mons, has discovered a cure for cholera. He has applied electro-galvanism to his patients, and has obtained by this system astonishing results. Fifteen individuals attacked by cholera, and whose lives were despaired of, were attended at the hospital by Dr. Defontaine, and were all without exception cured in a few hours. Ten or twelve minutes after the commencement of the operation, all the bad symptoms of the disease disappeared, warmth was restored, and the patient was covered with an abundant perspiration. This is one of the most interesting discoveries made for many years.

EARTHQUAKE IN CORNWALL.—The *Cornwall Gazette* says that a shock of earthquake was felt at Newquay on the 21st ult., about 7.10. The sound resembled that of heavy-laden waggons passing through a street. In many parts of the place it shook the houses to an alarming extent, which caused many of the inmates to leave their houses to inquire what the strange sensation was. The vessels that were aground in the pier shook and trembled very much. The earthenware and glass appeared in many houses to have been set quite in commotion. The shock lasted for about one minute. Such an occurrence was never remembered in this place by the oldest inhabitant.

A MONSTROUS BOA.—The *Penang Gazette* of a late date says: "A monster boa constrictor was killed one morning this week by the overseer of convicts at Bayam Lepas, on the road to Telo' Kumbar. His attention was attracted by the squealing of a pig, and on going to the place he found it in the coils of the snake. A few blows from the chankolf of the convicts served to despatch the reptile, and on uncoiling him he was found to be 28 feet in length and 32 inches in girth. This is one of the largest specimens we have heard of in Penang."

THE AURORA AUSTRALIS.—Mr. J. B. Austen, of Kapunda, South Australia, gives the following account of this beautiful phenomenon:—"On Monday evening, the 29th of August, just after dusk, the 'Aurora Australis' appeared like a large and brilliant pink cloud extending about 25 deg. or 30 deg. above the horizon, and 60 deg. or 70 deg. in length. It continued visible for about twenty minutes, during the last five of which splendid 'streamers' of pink and white light were shooting vertically through it. It was seen almost throughout these colonies at the same time, and on four nights in the same week; but I only saw it twice—once as above, and again on Friday, the 2nd of September, when the most gorgeously brilliant display took place. It commenced immediately after sunset, and increased in splendour during the evening. The moon was in her first quarter. For several hours little was to be seen but a deep rich pink light over the southern part of the sky; but by degrees it extended, and about nine o'clock a huge pillar of fire appeared in the west, where it remained until midnight. After the moon went down the brilliancy of the aurora increased, and from about half-past eleven till past twelve a beautiful pale, soft, greenish-blue light, like the dawn of morning, extended itself above the southern horizon for about 100 deg. to 110 deg., and about 18 deg. or 20 deg. in height; from this streamers, or radii of 'red, white, and blue' light, shot upwards to beyond the zenith, fully half the sky being covered with this splendid illumination, the light from which equalled that of the full moon in England. These radii converged towards a point about 15 deg. north of the zenith, but did not themselves extend more than half that distance beyond the zenith. This was its 'last appearance,' and a splendid finale it was. Fifty of the largest comets blazing away at once could hardly have presented a finer sight. The powerful electric

excitement in the atmosphere had an extraordinary effect on the telegraph wires, agitating the instruments violently in some places, and quite interfering with the transmission of messages."

A NEW AERIAL MACHINE.—A new apparatus is just now being exhibited at the Palais de l'Industrie, Paris, by M. Verte, one of the numerous aspirants to the honour of solving the problem of aerial navigation. It consists of a large bag of goldbeater's skin, in the form of a fish, containing the hydrogen gas commonly used for filling balloons; it is hooped with iron, and carries a small boat fitted with various contrivances for propulsion. The tail of the fish serves as a rudder; the whole machine is seven metres in length, and is in the aggregate heavier than atmospheric air; so that, when left to itself, it slowly descends. In the car, or boat, there is a small steam-engine, of a power equal to that of a man; it serves the purpose of driving the propellers fore and aft, constructed on the screw principle; there are besides four rotary planes, which may be so adjusted as to make the apparatus rise or descend according to an inclined plane. It must be remarked that the model before us is too small to bear the weight of a man, and that the exhibitor consequently remains on terra firma, keeping his machine secured by a rope; but he by no means guides the machine, for the rope remains generally slack, and is only held in the hand in order to haul the apparatus down when it is necessary to arrange something in the gear. The remarkable fact which this invention at once decides is this, that the air may be managed like water by means of paddle or screw; for, to the surprise of the intelligent beholder, this machine, which, as before stated, is heavier than the atmosphere, rises of itself as soon as the propellers are in motion. Hence, it differs materially from the common balloon, which derives its ascensional power exclusively from the difference of specific gravity existing between hydrogen and atmospheric air. The machine also obeys the rudder just as if the latter acted in the water. To sum up, this apparatus is a decided step in advance in so far as the possibility of directing a ship in the air is concerned. Whether the conditions would be the same on a larger scale, however, still remains doubtful.

GELOSE.—An interesting communication on the subject of Chinese delicacies was made by M. Payen to the Académie des Sciences at Paris. In the course of his observations, M. Payen said: "In 1856, M. de Montravet brought over from China a few bundles of thin white strips of a substance called China moss, said to grow on trees in the south of China and in the Philippine islands. M. Payen, upon examination, found it to be quite exempt from organic structure, and rich in various principles soluble in water, besides a small quantity soluble in alcohol. The remainder, though insoluble in cold water, would swell considerably in it, and then assumed the form of rectangular prisms which appeared to have been manufactured in that shape by means of moulds. It was soluble in boiling acetic acid, leaving a nitrogenous residue amounting to about three-hundredths of its weight. But the most important property of this swelling substance was that it would dissolve in boiling water, and, when cool, coagulate in a colourless and transparent jelly. The quantity of water which it could thus fix was equal to five hundred times its own weight, so that it yielded ten times more jelly than the best animal gelatine, and much lighter. This substance is slowly soluble in very small quantities of concentrated sulphuric and hydrochloric acid, when it assumes a brown colour, and becomes a mass which resists both hot and cold water, and even caustic alkaline solutions. As this property does not belong to any other known vegetable principle, M. Payen has thought it expedient to give this curious substance a peculiar name, viz. gelose; it contains about 43 per cent. of carbon, 51 of oxygen, and 6 of hydrogen. Gelose does not exist in any lichen, but it may be extracted from the *Gelidium corneum*, a seaweed found near Java. M. Payen was also induced to try the celebrated birds' nests of China, built by a kind of swallow (*Salangana fuciphaga*), in order to ascertain whether they contained any similar principle. Various authors have attributed the nutritive properties of these birds' nests to their being composed of certain fuel, such as the *Plocaria lichenoides*, the *Gelidium corneum*, &c. Willoughby affirms that the birds pick up a tenacious sea froth (!) upon the rocks, and that this curious froth is produced by fishes. Kämpfer asserts that the nests are made of molluscs, an opinion which is also adopted by Linnaeus. Everard Home, Gervais, Van Beneden, and Prince Charles Bonaparte are of opinion that their matter is merely a salivary secretion which the salangana has at its command during the season in which it builds its nest. In 1856 M. Simonet de Maisonneuve sent home a white substance in long slips, stating it to be the purified substance of these nests; and Professor J. Cloquet found that it yielded a light jelly like that of isinglass. M. Payen adds a few observations to the above. The normal substance of the nests, dried in *vacuo* at boiling point, emits ammoniacal vapours, and contains various soluble chlorides, sulphates, and phosphates, besides carbonate of lime. When reduced to powder it will swell in cold water to 83 times its value; in boiling water it will dissolve, leaving 7 per cent. of an insoluble residue. It does not coagulate like jelly on cooling, and appears to be an animal mucus of a peculiar nature, which M. Payen proposes to call *cubidose*."—*Galignani*.

A NEW, ECONOMICAL, AND SAFE STEAM-GENERATOR.—The *Spectator* gives a detailed account of a new steam-generator, which seems likely to effect a remarkable revolution in the use of motive power. Mr. Scott's steam-generator consists of lap-welded wrought-iron tubes, one fourth of an inch thick, formed into a coil or helix—in general form like a sugar-loaf. The generator may consist of any number of coiled tubes one within the other, so as to occupy the whole space in the furnace. The plan increases the generating surface without increasing the space occupied by the machine, and at the same time it forms a generator of vast power. By using one coil the generating surface may be decreased. Tubes of any diameter capable of being bent may be used; for the coil possesses great strength in the combination of its circular surfaces; and, being spiral, it is free to expand and contract within itself. As the generator has no joints or couplings, the tube being of one continuous length, even to the extent of 200 feet, no leakage can take place. These coils will bear a pressure of 500lb. to the square inch with perfect safety. The safety-valve is of the same diameter as the tube or boiler, and does not present the disproportion to which we have alluded in other boilers. In order to show more clearly the nature of the new generator, we will describe the size of one for a twelve-horse power engine, now in operation in the works of Mr. Finney, the engineer, of King-street, Poplar. A furnace is constructed of wrought-iron plates, about 2 feet 6 inches to 3 feet in height and 4 feet in diameter; partially into this furnace is put the base part of the coil or coils. The height of the coil is about 4 feet, and at the base it is a little smaller than the iron base or furnace; on the top of the coil is fixed an iron tube about 3 feet 6 inches in height, and 14 inches in diameter. The small boiler is for the purpose of regulating the steam before it passes into the piston; it is, like the tubes, made of welded iron, and is capable of standing a pressure of 500lb. to the square inch. Surrounding the whole of this is a brick chimney, so that when you are looking at the apparatus, surrounded as it is with brickwork, the appearance is that of a mere chimney to a boiler, whereas in this instance the whole is visible. An ordinary boiler for an engine of twelve-horse power would be 12 feet or more long, and from 4 to 5 feet in diameter. The space saved in the new construction is obvious, and its peculiar value for marine purposes is equally self-evident. The mode by which the steam is generated is this. Water

is mixed with atmospheric air in the proportion of about 30 of air to 1 of water. The water is first heated to about 200 degrees by the exhaust steam from the engine or other means, and the air is heated in tubes up to 400 or 500 degrees. Both air and water are then forced by their respective pumps through finely-perforated discs of wire gauze; they thus become intimately commingled, and they enter the coil in the form of mist or vapour, thus carrying out the operation of nature. The coil has been previously heated, by means of the furnace, to a temperature varying from 800 to 1000 degrees Fahrenheit; and thus steam is immediately formed of great elastic force. Nor is this all; as the steam passes through each convolution of the coil it becomes superheated, passing into the reservoir on the top before mentioned, which is also heated. If too much air is in the tubes a little water can be admitted, which will prevent any injurious effect, such as the cutting of the valves, &c. These coils may be constructed so as to be inverted, or to be used in a horizontal manner; and in every instance room and fuel will be saved, and accidents prevented. An engine moved by this means is worked at the rate of one shilling to three by the old method. Messrs. Finney informed us that the firm have sent one generator to Paris, another to Vienna, and they were then constructing one for Germany, besides several for home consumption.

THE NEW GREEN COLOUR.—The *Building News*, giving an account of the new pigment—the hydrated oxide of chromium, which has been invented by M. Guignet, as a substitute for the arsenical greens, which are generally supposed to be so injurious to the system, says: The hydrated oxide of chromium is of a more brilliant colour than any of the chrome greens hitherto obtained; and it may be employed as a pigment as well as for the printing of tissues and staining paper-hangings. When prepared according to the process about to be described, it is not liable to be decomposed by a temperature below red heat, and is consequently a solid colour. It is easily distinguishable, by the beauty of its green colour, from the common hydrated oxide, which is a bluish grey, and from the anhydrous oxide of chromium (chrome green) by the influence which heat exercises upon the last-named. The new hydrated oxide when heated to 425° centigrade, separates itself from water, and becomes dark in the course of decomposition. The product obtained is not liable to be decomposed by the action of the atmosphere and light, nor by that of chemical agents, with the exception of concentrated and boiling acids. It is, therefore, capable of being mixed with all the colours and mordants in use without detriment to the resulting products. There are two modes of preparing the new hydrated oxide. The first consists in raising to red heat, on the bed or bottom of a vibratory furnace, a mixture consisting of one part of bichromate of potass, and three parts of refined boric acid, moistened sufficiently to form a thick paste. Care must be taken not to exceed a dull red heat, otherwise the substances will enter into complete fusion, instead of remaining a porous mass; and the oxide, already formed, will pass into an anhydrous state, which would be of a pale green colour. The mass, when properly treated, is thrown, while hot, into cold water, and washed with boiling water to remove completely the borate of potass which has been formed. The hydrated oxide remains and may be collected, to be dried and set aside for use. By evaporating the waters which have been used in washing, and adding chlorohydric acid, the boric acid may be recovered. The second process of manufacture consists in substituting for the bichromate of potass employed an equal quantity of chromate of soda, which may be obtained by dissolving in boiling water 61 parts of neutral chromate of potass and 53 parts of nitrate of soda; or 92 parts of bichromate of potass, 89 parts of crystallised carbonate of soda, and 53 parts of nitrate of soda. In both cases the solution in cooling precipitates a large quantity of nitre, which may be sold for commercial purposes. The mother-waters contain chromate of soda, which may be obtained by crystallisation or by evaporation. The last-named method gives twice the quantity of chromate of soda that the one before it does. When the new green colour is manufactured with chromate of soda, the wash-waters contain borax, which may be sold to commerce in that state, or may be converted into boric acid by treatment with hydrochloric acid. The colour, prepared with chromate of soda, is of a lighter green than that prepared with the bichromate of potass, and it may be rendered still lighter by the addition to the mixture of boric and bichromate of potass of a little alumina, magnesia, or artificial sulphate of baryta before introducing it to the furnace. Lastly, the chromates of potass and of soda may be replaced by the chromate of lime, prepared directly by calcining the ores of chromium or chromated iron with chalk, by the action of an oxidising flame.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL ITEMS.

ARCHÆOLOGISTS AND NUMISMATISTS will receive with much gratification *The Historical Numismatic Atlas of the Roman Empire* lately issued by Mr. Whelan, of the Strand, numismatist and antiquary. This Atlas, which is printed upon one sheet, map-like, and stretched upon linen, so as to fold within covers or roll up in a roller, represents a perfect series of the Roman coinage from Julius Cæsar, whose portrait was stamped on coins during his lifetime, to the extinction of the Empire of the West under Romulus called Augustulus. As the custom of impressing upon the coins portraits of the rulers and sovereigns in whose reigns they were issued had then become settled, the value of such a series as a help to the student of history as a science must be considerable; aiding him, as it must, in forming some idea of the characters of the persons represented, and in comparing their outward seeming with the accounts given of them by contemporary historians. *The Numismatic Atlas* will also be found of great use in arranging collections and drawing up catalogues.

CURIOUS INSCRIPTION IN MELBOURNE CHURCH, DERBYSHIRE.—A few weeks ago we alluded to a very remarkable painting, with an inscription over it, which the workmen had recently found when cleaning the walls of Melbourne Church, Derbyshire. The painting consisted of a figure of the devil, underneath whom were two human figures; other figures were represented in various parts of the painting. The inscription is written in singular characters, and has puzzled several eminent linguists. The most probable construction of it is that rendered by Professor Bosworth, author of the "Anglo-Saxon Dictionary," and the Rev. Samuel Fox, of Morley, Derbyshire, both eminent scholars, and likely to give an accurate opinion. They consider that the painting is a very rude illustration of our Lord's temptation; that the inscription is Latin, much abbreviated; and that when the necessary letters are supplied it reads thus: "HIC EST RELICTUS A DIABOLO;" "Here he is left by the devil," or perhaps more literally, "Here the devil leaveth him."

SALE OF THE LATE LORD NORTHWICK'S GREEK COINS.—On Monday last, at their rooms in Wellington-street, Messrs Sotheby and Wilkinson began the sale by auction of the first portion of the magnificent collection of coins brought together by the late Lord Northwick. The portion now offered consists entirely of the Greek coins and medals in which the collection is so rich, and the magnitude and importance of the series may be gathered from the fact that the catalogue specified 1633 items, and the sale occupied twelve days. In the arrangement of these numismatic treasures the system of Eckhel has been adopted, a system composed of geographical, alphabetical, and chronological

elements. Another admirable feature in the catalogue is, that wherever the compiler has considered a coin to be false, or of dubious authority, it will be found so described in the catalogue. This is an example worthy of imitation; and it is much to be desired that picture-auctioneers would profit by it, and have their catalogues edited by persons of judgment capable of pronouncing authoritatively upon the genuineness of a picture. To be sure, such a proceeding might cause a slight loss of immediate profit; but the confidence created by the issue of such catalogues would bring a class of buyers to their rooms who would eventually be more profitable than the present crowd of sharp practitioners. Up to the time of our latest accounts, the prices fetched at this sale have been excellent. General Moore and other private collectors have hitherto been the principal buyers. Nothing much has been as yet done for the British Museum; though it is possible that there may be some *bonne bouche* upon which the gentlemen there are keeping a watchful eye. The following is an account of the best lots sold:—*Northern and Central Italy: Silver Coins.*—(27) Populonia, a mark over xx.; reverse, two Polypti; size, 5; weight, 123.4-10 grains; another, a young laurelled head to left, behind x.; reverse, a plain surface; size, 3½; weight, 62 grains; equally rare, and in good condition; cited by Mionnet, Nos. 44 and 46—47. 16s. (29) Alba in Latium, head of Mercury, with winged pegasus to right; reverse, Alba, a winged horse, to right; in fine condition, and extra rare; size, 3; weight, 19 grains—51. 2s. 6d. (36) Fretrunum? Frentani, as in Friedlaender, plate 8, figure 2; crowned head of Juno, full face; reverse, Bellerophon attacking the Chimera, with FENSERNV, in retrograde Oscan characters; rather fine, and extremely rare; size, 4; weight, 113 grains—104. 5s. (46) Cumæ, type of Naples, but on the exergue KYNIAION; a fine, recent work, in excellent condition, and extremely rare; size, 4½; Mionnet, Cumæ, sup. 143, cites this identical specimen—91. (47) Hyrina, crowned head of Juno, full face; reverse, TAINA (retrograde) over the bull; in very good condition, and extremely rare; size, 4½—81. (52) Nola, head of Minerva, the helmet ornamented with an owl on a wreath of laurel leaves; reverse, NCIAION over the androcephalous bull; an unusually fine didrachm; size, 5-7 grs.; full face, with the hair scattered; reverse, FISTELVR, in Roman letters, over an androcephalous bull; the didrachm in very good condition, and rare—21. 7s. (67) Fretrunum, Frentani, head of Mercury, with the usual Oscan legend; reverse, a winged horse, beneath a tripod; a copper coin of extreme rarity and in fine condition; size, 4½—51. 5s. *Magna Græcia: Gold Coins.*—(76) Tarentum in Calabria, TAPA; a diademed and partially veiled female head to left, surrounded by three dolphins; reversed, TAPAS (on the exergue), a naked horseman to right, crowning his horse, and himself crowned by Victory, gracefully floating behind him; before the horse a dolphin and a star, and under it SA; a fine work and in good condition, and of great rarity; size, 4; weight, 132½ grains—401. (77) Tarentum, diademed and veiled female head, to right; reverse, a naked horseman armed with a shield, and in the act of striking downwards with a javelin; under the horse, AN; fine style and in most excellent condition; size, 3½; weight, 132½ grains—341. (72) Tarentum, head of Jupiter to right; reverse, an eagle on a thunderbolt to left, in front, A.P. in monogram; in very good condition, and extremely rare; size, 3½; weight, 132½ grains—141. 10s. (80) Tarentum, TAPAS (retrograde), female head to left; behind, SA; reverse, Taras on a dolphin to left, holding a trident, and a Victory; under the dolphin I.H., and indications of the waves of the sea; in fine condition, and extra rare; size, 2½; weight, 66 grains—161. 10s. (83) Tarentum, female head to right; reverse, TAPAS, the infant Taras seen in front, holding up a distaff with the right hand; beneath a dolphin; in very good condition, and apparently unpublished; size, 1½; weight, 21½ grains—15. 8s. (84) Tarentum (TAPA), head of Apollo to left; reverse, Hercules slaying a lion, in the field a bow and a club, and the letters I.H.; fine and rare; size, 1½; weight, 22 grains—41. 13s. (86) Brutii, diademed head of Neptune to left, with a trident behind, and under it the head of an ox; reverse, a Nereid veiled, and mounted on a sea-horse, which is in full motion to right; a Cupid standing on her knee, and supported by her right hand; towards the head of the horse a cornucopia, and under it BPETITION; in perfect condition, and of extreme rarity; size, 3; weight, 65½ grains—351. For an engraving of this beautiful coin on an enlarged scale, see "Noehden's Selection of Ancient Coins," from the cabinet of Lord Northwick (privately printed for the late Lord in 1824-5), Part I., plate 1. (87) Brutii, bearded head of Hercules to left, covered with the skin of a lion, and the claws of the animal tied under the chin; reverse, a winged semi-draped female Victory, driving a biga or chariot, with two horses to the right; she holds the reins together with a goad in the left hand, the right being unoccupied; under the horses is a serpent in motion to the right, and on the exergue BPETITION; in perfect condition, and of great rarity; size, 3; weight, 32.7-10 grains—161. 15s. This valuable hemidrachm is also engraved in the work above cited, Part I. plate 1. *Silvers.*—(94) Heracleia, head of Minerva to right, but of quite a different style; reverse, Hercules strangling a lion; in front, to left, an ear of corn; in fine condition; size, 5; weight, 115½ grains—41. 6s. (100) Laus, a bull with a bearded human face to right, but looking to left; over the bull are vestiges of four letters; reverse, the same, but incuse; fine, and of extreme rarity; size, 6; weight, 123.1-5 grains—51. Eckhel assigned this rare coin to Sybaris; the restitution to Laus is on the authority of Millingen. (101) Metapontium, bearded, helmeted head of the hero Leucippus; to right, the helmet ornamented with a victory in a quadriga, and a small hippocamp; behind is the fore-half of a horse; reverse, METAHONTION; an ear of corn, with the leaf surmounted by a club; a tetradrachm of fine work, in excellent condition, and of the highest degree of rarity, possibly unique; size, 7; weight, 243 grains—441. Of 68 specimens of the coins of this city which were in the French cabinet when Mionnet wrote his "Poids des Médailles Grecques," the heaviest weighed only 123.8-10 grains. The first day's sale amounted to 5501.—The following were the principal specimens disposed of during the second day:—(234) Agrigentum, AKPAFA[NTIN]ON, the monster Scylla to the left; over the head of it is a crab; rev. AKPAF; around, two eagles trampling upon a dead hare to right; size, 9 by 7; weight, 267½ grains. This excessively rare and beautiful medal is so very slightly rubbed that it may be said to be in perfect condition. It is very accurately engraved on an enlarged scale in Noehden's "Selections" from his cabinet, part I. plate 3.—1591. (Curt.) (235) Agrigentum. An eagle feeding upon a dead hare; to left, under the hare, is a small scallop shell; rev., a fish with the mouth wide open, to left; above is a crab, and to the left a small scallop shell; in perfect condition, and of a high degree of rarity; size, 7; weight, 269½ grains—601. (453) Catania—KATANAINON over the laurelled androgynous head of Apollo, to left; behind is the camarrus, or prawn, and before it a branch of the wild pomegranate (calaustrum) in bloom; rev., a chariot with four horses, running at full speed, but at the close of their career, as indicated by the column, or stela, which the wheels of the car have not yet passed; above is a floating Victory, with the right hand about to crown the charioteer with a wreath, and holding in the left a tablet, on which is inscribed the name of the artist, ETAIN; on the exergue is a crab; very fine condition, and of excessive rarity; size, 6½; weight, 267 grains—521. This tetradrachm, from the cabinet of Prince Torremuzza, is unquestionably one of the most

interesting in this magnificent collection. (259) Catania, laurelled androgynous head of Apollo, represented full face and in unusually bold relief; to the right, the name of the artist; rev., a quadriga and Victory, to left; the horses grouped similarly to the last; on the exergue KATANAINON; in fine condition, and of extreme rarity; size, 7; weight, 260 grains—451. The second day's sale realised upwards of 10001.

The *Maidstone Journal* gives the following account of the late W. H. Rolfe, Esq., of Sandwich, a distinguished archaeologist:—We are sorry to report the death of Mr. W. H. Rolfe, of Sandwich, a gentleman well known in antiquarian circles, and particularly in connection with Kentish archaeology. No one, indeed, has contributed more liberally towards antiquarian researches in the Roman and Saxon departments in Kent than Mr. Rolfe. For years his residence at Sandwich was the rendezvous of a choice circle of scientific explorers, who were hospitably entertained and aided by the intelligent conversation of their amiable host, while a generous hand was ever ready to contribute to the expenses of practical researches. Mr. Rolfe was the grandson of Boys, the historian of Sandwich. He early imbibed antiquarian tastes, and, in the course of time, succeeded in forming a valuable museum of local antiquities, some notion of the extent and importance of which can be formed from Mr. Roach Smith's "Antiquities of Richborough, Reculver, and Lyme" and the "Collectanea Antiqua." The former work (dedicated to Mr. Rolfe) is chiefly illustrated from his collections; and the Saxon antiquities from Osengal, together with many rare coins discovered in Kent, appear in the latter work. Referring to it, it is curious to notice that, upon a point of money for the illustration, the Society of Antiquaries declined the offer of the report on the discoveries at Osengal! We can only infer then that the liberality of Mr. Rolfe helped to do what this rich society would not consent to. The valuable collections made by Mr. Rolfe were ceded to Mr. Mayer, of Liverpool, the purchaser of the Kentish Saxon antiquities excavated by Faussett, which had been twice refused by the trustees of the British Museum, several of whom belong to the said society of Antiquaries. The antiquities of Richborough are now placed by the side of the rejected Saxon remains, and will be often referred to by future antiquaries for types and examples. The county may now lament the loss of such a collection; but Mr. Rolfe was resolved to keep it in its integrity, and where it should be accessible. It is luckily fully illustrated in the volume abovementioned. Mr. Rolfe had reached his 81st year a few weeks since. His illness was of short duration, and he expired on Sunday without a sigh. His amiable qualities have endeared him to all who knew him, and his loss will be felt not only in the town of Sandwich, but wherever he was known. A respected correspondent adds: "In Mr. Rolfe our Kentish archaeological researches lose a true patron, for he was not one of those who figure only in the decorations and feastings of societies, but he was earnest and sincere for the sake of science, affable and hospitable, and under his friendly roof and auspices were often assembled some of our ablest archaeologists, who by his encouragement have substantially forwarded the study of the early antiquities of our country. Some of his most valuable coins found at Richborough, we understand, are at the present moment being engraved by his friend Mr. Fairholt."

MISCELLANEA.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD that Mr. John Veitch, M.A., author of the "Life of Dugald Stewart," and joint editor, with Mr. Mansel, of Oxford, of "Sir W. Hamilton's Lectures," is a candidate for the vacant chair of Logic in the United College, St. Andrews.

The lecture season of the Chambers Institution was inaugurated on Wednesday evening, the 30th ult., by Mr. William Chambers, the donor, who delivered to a numerous and most attentive audience an interesting sketch of his late visit to Bradford, in connection with the Social Science Congress.

The following statement appears under the head of "University Intelligence:—The Warden of All Souls' College, who is the treasurer of the 'Oxford Poor Parishes Fund,' will be thankful to receive the smallest sum in aid of this useful charity." Which is the "useful charity?" All Souls' College, or the "Poor Parishes Fund?"

A public meeting, to form an association to procure the establishment of a museum and public library for the eastern part of London, was held on Tuesday evening, at the Manor-rooms, Hackney. W. Cotton, Esq., late Governor of the Bank of England, occupied the chair. Resolutions in support of the objects of this meeting were carried.

On Friday, the 2nd inst., two public meetings were held in the Town-hall, Cambridge, in aid of the Soldiers' Friend and Army Scripture Readers' Society. The morning meeting was presided over by the Earl of Hardwicke, and, among others, Lord Shaftesbury and Sir John Lawrence addressed the meeting in favour of the objects of the society.

On Friday evening, the 2nd inst., a meeting was held at the Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich, for the purpose of adopting measures for providing the means of instruction, moral and intellectual improvement, and rational recreation for the private soldiers of the various corps at Woolwich Garrison. The chair was occupied by Major-General Sir Richard Dacres, C.B., commandant of the garrison, and resolutions were moved and carried in favour of the objects of the meeting.

The Birmingham *Daily Post* announces that the Right Rev. Dr. Ullathorne has appointed the Very Rev. George Morgan, D.D., President of St. Mary's College, Oscott (Roman Catholic) in the room of the late Dr. Weedall. Dr. Morgan has been connected with the college for many years, and his elevation has given great satisfaction to the Roman Catholic body, of which he was a distinguished member. The Rev. Spencer Northcote, formerly a clergyman of the Church of England, has been appointed vice-president of the college.

The following ukase has been issued by Mr. Rowland Hill, dated from the General Post-office, and affecting the transmission of newspapers to the East Indies, Mauritius, Ceylon, Australia, or China:—General Post-office, Dec. 1.—The public are reminded that notice was given in March last, that in order to pay the cost of transit through Egypt (a cost which has been largely increased, owing, in part, to an important improvement in the service), newspapers sent *via* Southampton and Suez addressed to the East Indies, Ceylon, Mauritius, Hong Kong, China, Australia, or any other country or place eastward of Suez, will, on the 1st of January next and thenceforward, be subject to an additional charge of 1d., making the rates as follows:—Upon a newspaper addressed to the East Indies, 2d. when not exceeding 40z. in weight; 3d. when above 40z. and not exceeding 80z. in weight—one penny being added for every additional 40z. or fraction of 40z. Upon newspapers addressed to any of the other countries or places referred to—2d. for each newspaper, of whatever weight. No alteration will be made in the postage of book-packets sent by this route, as they already pay a transit rate; nor will any change be made in the postage of newspapers sent *via* Marseilles, the present charge on such newspapers being sufficient to cover the cost of transit through Egypt. No alteration, moreover, will be made in the postage of any newspapers which may be directed to go "By private ship." The charge on these newspapers will remain as at present, 1d. each.

The public are further reminded, that, as the exclusive-privilege of the Postmaster General extends only to letters, it is not compulsory on any one to send newspapers through the post, and that they may be forwarded by other channels.

We learn from the Manchester papers that, on Saturday, the adjourned meeting of persons connected with the newspaper press and printing trades of Manchester was held at the Oxford-road Inn, to hear the report of the committee appointed at the last meeting, as to the cost of equipping a company of volunteers to join one of the Manchester regiments now in course of formation. Nearly 100 persons attended, the newspaper and other printing offices in the city being represented. The proceedings throughout were conducted with great unanimity and much enthusiasm, there being but one opinion as to the desirability of forming a Manchester Press Volunteer Corps. After the report had been received, it was resolved—"That a company of riflemen be now formed, to be attached to the Third Manchester Regiment; that it be composed of employees and others connected with the press, and their friends; and that it be called the Manchester Press Volunteer Company." Another resolution was adopted, authorising the provisional committee to call a meeting of the volunteers, to elect a permanent committee who should take the necessary steps for the enrolment of the company in the 3rd regiment. It was also resolved that honorary members be elected on payment of an annual subscription of two guineas. Thirty-two of those present then gave in their names as volunteers, and others consented to be placed on the list conditionally. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

On Tuesday the December general meeting of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Archdeacon Sinclair in the chair, when it was announced by the Rev. T. B. Murray, one of the secretaries, that legacies had recently been bequeathed to the institution, by, among others, the late Mr. Robert Stephenson, 2000*l.*; the Rev. Henry Stonehouse, a clergyman in Oxfordshire, 9000*l.* on the death of his widow; and by a lady named Mary Ann Worley, late of Stoney-Stratford, 1000*l.* Donations, amounting in the whole, to 805*l.* 5*s.*, had also been made to the society within the last month, including 500*l.* from one gentleman, Mr. Taylor, of Dorset-square. On the recommendation of the standing committee of the society, the meeting voted 500*l.* to the Bishop of Graham's Town, on his application, towards the missionary college there, making, with the 1000*l.* previously granted for the same object, 2000*l.* To the Bishop of Nelson they also granted 400*l.* for church extension in his diocese; and to the Bishop of Brisbane, for a similar purpose, 500*l.*, of which 200*l.* is to go towards the erection of a cathedral church in the chief town of his diocese. Dr. O'Meara, just returned from North America, where he has been twenty-one years a missionary among the Indians, related some interesting particulars of the result of his labours in that capacity, referring especially to the translation of the Scriptures and the Liturgy into the Ojibbeway tongue.

The Cambridge University "Non-Gremial" Examinations do not appear to be making much progress in the small towns, but in the more populous centres of industry a fair number of candidates will appear at the approaching examinations. The following is a detailed statement of the number of candidates at each centre:—

Junior. Senior.		Junior. Senior.		Northampton. Senior. Junior.	
Birmingham.	50	9	Exeter	51	18
Bristol	23	15	Grantham	13	1
Bristol	51	7	Liverpool	64	10
Cambridge	17	3	London	66	14

The junior candidates offer themselves for examination in the various optional subjects, as follows:—Scripture, 390; Church Catechism, 319; Whately's Christian Evidences, 326; original English composition, 362; English history, 361; geography, 357; Trench on Words, 341; Latin, 300; Greek, 94; French, 311; German, 39; arithmetic, algebra, and Euclid, 346; higher mathematical subjects, 157; mechanics and hydrostatics, 48; chemistry, 21; zoology, 10; botany, 8; geometrical drawing, 39; mechanical drawing, 19; linear perspective, 34; drawing from flat, 113; drawing from models, 80; drawing from memory, 73; and music, 22. The senior candidates will devote themselves to the optional subjects in the following proportions:—Scripture, 86; Common Prayer, 73; Paley's *Horn Pauline*, 57; English history, 80; Shakespeare, 48; political economy, 9; English law, 14; Latin, 71; Greek, 42; French, 58; German, 17; Euclid, arithmetic, and algebra, 70; higher mathematical subjects, 33; chemistry, 4; heat, magnetism, and electricity, 3; physics, optics, and acoustics, 1; comparative anatomy, 4; botany, 5; physical geography and geology, 11; drawing from flat, 26; drawing from models, 24; drawing from memory, 22; linear perspective, 13; plans, sections, and elevations, 5; questions on painting, 6; and music, 4.

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- No. 2, JOHN EVERETT MILLAIS, July 8, No. 417.
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- No. 8, M. LE COMTE DE MONTALEMBERT, Jan. 1, No. 446.
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- No. 11, GEORGE GROTE, April 2, No. 456.
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- No. 17, SAMUEL LOVER, September 3, No. 478.
- No. 18, PROFESSOR FARADAY, October 8, No. 483.
- No. 19, JAMES ROBINSON PLANCHÉ, Nov. 5, No. 487.

Portraits of LORD MACAULAY, Sir E. B. LYTTON, and others, will follow, from Photographs by Mr. MATALL, Messrs. MAULL and POLYBLANK, Mr. CLARKINGTON, Mr. HERBERT WATKINS, and other eminent photographic artists.

CRITIC Office, 19, Wellington-street North, Strand, W. C.

The Council of University College, London, at their session on Saturday last, appointed Syed Abdoolah Professor of Hindustani in the college. The chair, since the retirement of Professor Dowson, whose duties at Sandhurst prevented his giving lectures in London, had been held, in conjunction with that of Tamil, by the Baron Von Streng, who, however, on learning that Syed Abdoolah was willing to undertake to instruct the class, and after bearing testimony to his high qualifications for the office, offered to make way for him, for the reasons urged on another occasion by Sir Henry Rawlinson, that although the dead languages are best taught by European professors skilled in the science of grammar, and with some knowledge of comparative philology, a native should be preferred for all the living dialects of India. At the same session the Council reviewed the report of Mr. Walter Bagehot, A.M., and Professor Waley of the result of the examination for the Joseph Hume Scholarship in Political Economy of 20*l.* a year for three years, viz., that Mr. Henry Selfe Page Winterbotham was the candidate most deserving of the scholarship; that his answers were of a very high order of merit; that the positive proficiency of Mr. Jacob Stiebel and Mr. Job Bradford was deserving of commendation, and such as the examiners would have considered worthy of the scholarship. The scholarship was conferred on Mr. Winterbotham.

The *Aberdeen Free Press* announces that Sir John Forbes, M.D., London, has presented to Marischal College, where he was educated, his medical library, consisting of nearly 3000 volumes, in English, Latin, and German. Considering Sir John Forbes's eminence, both as a physician and as a medical author, this large collection of medical works formed by him must be considered a very valuable acquisition.

The students in the University of Edinburgh are more numerous than last year. Exclusive of 80 registered in the Divinity Hall, 1380 students have matriculated. Last year (besides the divinity students) the total number of matriculants was only 1296. The increase is chiefly in the faculty of arts. In the faculty of medicine there is a small increase. The number of medical students is about 500.

In a recent lecture delivered at Glasgow, Sir John Bowring having asserted that the lexicon of the Chinese language consists of seventy large volumes, M. Stanislas Julien, professor of Chinese at the Collège de France and the first Sinologist in Europe, has written to the *Constitutionnel* to point out Sir John's mistake. M. Julien states that in reality the imperial dictionary of the Emperor Khang-hi, being that which all European students of Chinese use, is only of thirty-two volumes in 12mo., not thicker than the little finger, and containing only 42,718 characters. M. Julien asserts, moreover, that a knowledge of about one-tenth of these characters is sufficient to enable Chinese books to be understood, and that the Chinese language "is as clear as the easiest of modern languages," the proof being, he says, that numerous Chinese works have been translated into French in the course of the last thirty years.

CONTENTS.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS	575	ENGLISH LITERATURE (continued):—	
Waddell's Genius and Morality of Burns	576	A Dream of the Day that must come	581
Home's Australian Facts and Prospects	577	Recreative Science, No. 5	581
Bell's Colonial Administration of Great Britain	578	Jones's Advanced Reading-Book for Adult and other Schools	581
Lowell's The Biglow Papers	579	The Leisure Hour, 1859	581
Robertson's District Duties in India during the Revolt	580	The Sunday at Home, 1859	581
Wooler's Physiology of Education	580	Short Notices	581
Narragansett; or, the Plantations	581		
Keith's Shadow and Sunshine	581	DRAMA, MUSIC, ART, SCIENCE, &c.—	
Kavanagh's (Julia) Seven Years, and other Tales	581	The Drama	581
The Day of Small Things	582	Art and Artists:	
Mackay's The Whiskey Demon	582	Talk of the Studios	581
Brough's Ulf the Minstrel	582	Music and Musicians	581
Idols in the Heart: a Tale. By A. L. O. E.	582	Concerts during the Ensuing Week	581
Frisswell's Out and About: a Boy's Adventures	582	Musical and Dramatic Gossip	581
Ballantyne's The World of Ice	582	Science and Inventions:	
Taylor's Chronicles of an Old English Oak	583	Meetings of the Societies	581
Gwynn's The Ulster Revival	583	Meetings for the Ensuing Week	581
Patterson's The Past of Scottish Episcopacy	583	Scientific Items	581
The Christian's Mirror. By A. L. O. E.	583	Archaeological Items	581
		Miscellaneous	581
		Obituary	581
		ADVERTISEMENTS	581-74-390-4

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